

Ceasefire in Gaza, PLO says

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The armed wing of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction and the Israeli army have agreed to a ceasefire in the occupied Gaza Strip, a Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) official told an Israeli newspaper Wednesday. "During a recent meeting in Rome, we reached a gentleman's agreement under which the Israeli soldiers and the Fatah Hawks no longer open fire on each other," Mohammad Dahlan said in an interview with the Haaretz daily. Both parties have so far "generally respected" the agreement, according to Mr. Dahlan, a PLO security official. The Fatah Hawks announced in late November that they were going to resume the armed struggle against Israel after one of their fighters was killed by Israeli troops by mistake. Mr. Arafat had called on his followers to stop their anti-Israeli attacks after signing the autonomy deal with Israel in September. Mr. Dahlan said Israel and the PLO decided to create a committee for coordination in the field of intelligence although the two sides still disagree on the definition of "terrorism." Mr. Dahlan is one of the Palestinian negotiators in talks with Israel on the implementation of the autonomy accord.

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Joint panel meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee held its first meeting at the Foreign Ministry Wednesday. The Jordanian side to the committee's meeting was headed by Abdulla Toukan while the Palestinian side was headed by Brigadier Fakhri Shakoura. The committee will resume its meetings Thursday.

Clinton to ask for special prosecutor

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton will ask for a special prosecutor to "clear the air" over the controversy surrounding his Whitewater land dealings, administration and congressional sources said Wednesday.

Blasts shake Gaza

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — A series of explosions shook a Gaza City neighbourhood that had been under Israeli military curfew Wednesday. But no injuries were reported. A powerful blast was followed by two others, and the army later sent bomb disposal experts to an area near the military administration complex.

Israel denies release

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — Israel will release 3,500 Palestinian prisoners when it reaches an agreement on launching Palestinian autonomy, Fateh claimed Wednesday. But Israeli defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben Ami denied the report. "Israel will free 3,500 detainees when the accord is signed and will release all the rest before July 13 provided those belonging to (anti-autonomy) factions pledge to stop the armed struggle," Fateh said in a leaflet.

Israel, PLO stuck on security issues

TABA, Egypt (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) moved closer Wednesday to a deal on transferring civilian powers but remained stuck on security for the Palestinian self-rule areas of the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

They adjourned talks until Monday, cutting them short by one day to allow the Israeli delegates to attend the funeral of General Nehemiah Tamari, the West Bank army commander who was killed in a helicopter accident. (see page 10).

"There has been substantial progress and we have advanced on most of the questions," said the head of Israel's military administration in the West Bank, General Gadi Zahar.

Jamil Tarifi, a West Bank businessman heading the Palestinian side in the negotiations on a civilian hand-over, said: "We dealt with a lot of questions and made progress on most of them."

But after three days of talks in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Taba, the PLO and Israel were still divided on security. The talks were scheduled to resume in Taba on Monday.

The chief Palestinian negotiator, Nabil Shaath, was also optimistic on a civilian deal. "We have been able to move very rapidly and very positively in most of the departments that we used to have difficulty," he said.

Water, planning and zoning would be left for next week. The joint committee on civilian affairs discussed antiquities on Wednesday.

Dr. Shaath said 12 issues had already been resolved since the

(Continued on page 5)

Deputies continue to shower government with demands

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Demands for better and more services in various villages, cities and governorates of the Kingdom continued to dominate the Lower House of Parliament debate of the draft budget for 1994 on the second day of a marathon session that could stretch until Sunday.

The drafting team would

"look into issues that are really in between civil and security," such as Palestinian authority, its structure and responsibilities, said the PLO negotiator.

Israeli officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said little progress was evident on the issues that delayed the Israeli military withdrawal targeted for Dec. 13.

Israeli leaders have said if the talks dragged on the sides were unlikely to meet the second deadline foreseen by the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord, of completing military withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region by April 13.

Dr. Shaath played down the deadlock so far on security issues. "We should deal with them as important topics, but not as tie breakers, agreement breakers," he said.

The Palestinians were "not yet satisfied" on the size of the autonomous region of Jericho.

On the control of borders and crossings, another key stumbling block, "we have made progress but we are still short of a signable agreement," said Dr. Shaath.

Deputies echoed assertions made by their colleagues Tuesday that the "government missed the people" by contending that the budget is "deficit-free."

They said the budget contains a deficit of JD 460 million if grants and loans are excluded from the projected revenue.

The government also came under criticism from deputies who said the budget does not fairly distribute expenditure among the various governorates of the Kingdom despite its inclusion of separate budgets for the country's eight governorates.

Almost all deputies demanded that the government do not introduce the controversial sales tax if it is to lead to a higher cost of living. But at least one deputy said the government cannot re-

verse its decision to introduce the new tax because it is required by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"We are governed by our economic policy by the International Monetary Fund which aims at directing our economy towards serving the interests of the debtor countries," asserted leftist Deputy Mustafa Shneikat (Balqa).

Lawmakers also charged that the government had increased local revenue by introducing indirect taxes and raising the fees on government services.

Citing the budget's estimation of an 8.8 per cent increase in local revenue over that of 1992, and the projected 5.5 per cent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP), Ma'an Deputy Awad Khleifat said the government had failed to articulate a coherent vision for the challenging era through which the region is passing.

Whether the peace process fails or succeeds, Jordan has to develop a policy that can rise up to the challenges the new era would present, he said. The government has failed to do that yet, said Mr. Irshaidat, a former minister of youth.

Mr. Irshaidat said investment laws have also failed to create an environment which can enable Jordan to compete with other countries in the region.

Criticising the budget for earmarking funds for miscellaneous spending that cannot be controlled by the legislature, Ajloun Deputy Farah Al Rabadi said these allocations are not justifiable.

He said the government used to allocate such funds in the past to "hide what it used

need them most. The draft budget allocates JD 30 million for food subsidies, compared to JD 31 million in 1993.

Lawmakers who spoke Wednesday reiterated demands for administration reforms, modernisation of investments, banking and economic laws, support for the agricultural sector and more funds for the educational system.

Speaking on behalf of 16 deputies from the Progressive Democratic Coalition (PDC), Irbid Deputy Saleh Irshaidat said the government should be structured in a way that would deal with the "over-arching" problems of the economics of the region.

Underlining Jordan's "historic position at the crossroads of east and west," Prince Hassan said the Kingdom would be equipped to be a "window for the world on a new Middle East, one finally at peace."

But he added that this can only be achieved successfully if the "disparities and distortions created by conflict" are eliminated.

Cooperation among the Kingdom, Palestine and Israel in a "Benelux-type arrangement," the Crown Prince said, can only be achieved between partners and the "relationship that exists between Israel and the occupied territories is not one of partnership, but of hegemony."

He said the Israeli occupation has "destroyed the economies of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, preventing the development and expansion of Palestinian enterprise, and

prohibiting free trade within the area.

"All the peoples of the region have suffered because of the conflict, and just as all have their part to play in the process of building and renewing, so must its fruits be distributed equitably," the Crown Prince said adding that "if one thing is clear at this point it is that peace cannot be piecemeal."

He praised the economic accord reached between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation last week and said that the scopes of cooperation to be explored between the two parties will "not be the stuff of headlines, but the stuff of which true peace is made."

He said that despite the Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank, "the geographic, historic and demographic ties between Jordan and Palestine endure."

See full text of Prince Hassan's speech on page 5

Saleh ready to quit to end crisis

SANA (AP) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Wednesday he would rather resign than see his feud with Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh drag the country into civil war. In an impassioned speech, Mr. Saleh said he would even let Mr. Beedh become president if that would quell the crisis threatening the four-year-old union of North and South Yemen. "I am ready for any compromises to preserve my country and its unity and protect it from the dangerous pitfalls of civil war and separation, and what is only left is my resignation from the presidency," he said. "I am ready to present this (resignation) to... let brother Ali Salem Al Beedh of the Yemeni Socialist Party come in my place if that be the solution." Mr. Saleh spoke in the southern city of Ad, about 240 kilometres from Mr. Beedh's stronghold in Aden, the former southern capital, while on a reconciliation campaign after Mr. Beedh failed to show up for a meeting arranged by Yemeni Muslim scholars. Mr. Beedh has presented an 18-point programme of reforms. Mr. Saleh has accepted the programme in principle, but Mr. Beedh has spurred reconciliation until actual implementation starts.

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Algeria to free desert detainees

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian authorities, in a gesture to Muslim fundamentalist opponents, are to free some Islamists held without trial in Saharan desert camps opened nearly two years ago, a senior official said.

They will also lift house arrest imposed on some militants or leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Abdul Kader Bensalah, spokesman for a top-level committee said.

The National Dialogue Commission (CDN) has been given certain guarantees by the competent authorities on the release in the days to come of a group of detainees in the security centres in the south of the country, Mr. Bensalah said. "The commission hopes these measures constitute an important turning point on the way to a progressive return of tranquillity and civil peace in the country," said the spokesman, whose remarks were carried on the official news agency APS and on an Algerian radio.

Algeria has been beset by unrest, blamed by officials on the Islamists, in which more than 1,800 people have been killed in two years. It is now seeking to create a national political consensus for a two- to three-year transition period before a return to democracy and free elections.

The commission has been holding talks with some political parties ahead of a planned national conference this month, although major opposition parties have not taken part.

The FIS is outlawed and most of its leaders either in jail or abroad, while the two main secular parties the former ruling National Liberation Front and the Socialist Forces Front, have boycotted the latest talks.

The country's five-man collective presidency is due to stand down at the end of January and be replaced by an as yet unnamed president and two vice-presidents who should be officially confirmed by the national conference.

Desert camps were opened early in 1992 to combat unrest which erupted shortly after the authorities cancelled a general election which the FIS was

poised to win. An Algiers court banned the FIS in March 1992.

Algeria's official National Observatory of Human Rights estimates that 780 fundamentalists are interned in two camps in Algeria's extreme south. It said that in March 1992 nearly 9,000 Islamists were being held in seven camps.

Mr. Bensalah did not say how many detainees would be freed.

Mr. Bensalah said his organisation had contacts with FIS representatives.

"There have been contacts with people of FIS sensibilities, and these are continuing," he said.

He was unable to provide more details on the development, "given its specific and sensitive nature."

He reaffirmed the intention of the CDN to "extend political dialogue to all components of Algerian society, with no one excluded."

The English-language newspaper said the incident was "undoubtedly" linked to Nov. 9 grenade attacks on the French embassy and an Air France office, in which one airline employee was hurt.

"It is not difficult to deduce from the observable facts and available evidences that such acts of terrorism are meant to damage the international prestige of the Islamic republic," the newspaper said.

A Mujahedeen spokesman in Paris, Sarzin Hashemi, said he had no knowledge of the British embassy attack but called the Tehran Times' allegations "absolutely ridiculous."

The attacks on the French targets were claimed at the time by Hezbollah of southern Iran, a cover name for various extremist Iranian groups, as a warning to France for granting asylum ten days earlier to Maryam Rajavi, a prominent Mujahedeen member and wife of group leader Massoud Rajavi.

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Iran accuses rebels of embassy attack

NICOSIA (AP) — An influential Iranian newspaper has said that a weekend attack on the British embassy in Tehran was a rebel attempt to undermine Iran's efforts at better ties with Europe.

Unknown gunmen opened fire on the embassy Sunday, but the compound was empty and no one was hurt, the British Foreign Office said Tuesday.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman, who could not be identified under government rules, said walls were pocked with bullet holes, but nothing further was known about the incident.

She said diplomats were cooperating in a Tehran police investigation.

The Tehran Times daily, which generally reflects the foreign policy of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, blamed the attack on the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, Iran's largest dissident group.

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The newspaper said that if Tehran and Riyadh can settle, their differences "their natural right to set the price of oil will automatically follow."

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In the past few months the Islamic republic had undertaken active diplomatic initiatives to resolve its problems with some of the European countries and it had attained

great progress in this direction," the newspaper said.

It cited France's decision earlier this month to return two "citizens" to Iran, despite their being wanted in Switzerland for the murder of Massoud Rajavi's brother Kazem.

The newspaper said that the Mujahedeen was "among the political groups that would benefit from Iran's strained relations with western Europe."

"It is quite logical to conclude that the attacks on the embassies are meant to undermine Iran's recent improved relations with the Western European countries," the newspaper said.

The Mujahedeen spokesman said the editorial was part of Iranian government efforts "to cover up their own hands... I don't think it can deceive anybody..."

"Mour resistance is inside Iran and is directed against those who are responsible for the torture and imprisonment of Iranian people," he said.

Better ties with S. Arabia

The Tehran Times also called for closer cooperation with Saudi Arabia to improve regional security and prop up sagging world oil prices.

The editorial in the Tehran Times came in the wake of a row late last year in which the two leading oil producers blamed each other for plummeting crude prices.

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A series of delays sorted out

hitches in the release.

The kidnapping ended in the early hours on Wednesday when Mr. Gardner was driven to the WFP compound in Mogadishu.

WFP officials said no payment had been made by the United Nations agency. The kidnappers initially demanded a ransom of \$100,000.

The officials said clan elders had helped in the negotiations with the kidnappers. The WFP gave the elders radio handsets to keep in contact.

The multination U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) appealed to Somalis to help secure Mr. Gardner's safe return and sent troops to search for him.

An aid worker for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees was kidnapped in the northern town of Hargeisa late last year. His captors demand

British aid worker well after being freed

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — British aid worker Calum Gardner was freed by his Somali abductors early Wednesday, 42 hours after being kidnapped outside his office in Mogadishu.

Mr. Gardner phoned his father in Britain soon after his release to report that he was well and safe in the World Food Programme (WFP) compound in the Somali capital.

"The first thing he did was to get to a telephone and ring to let us all know he is safe," Dr. Thomas Gardner said in a British radio interview.

"Our conversation was a very brief one. I didn't go into details at all, other than to say 'are you well' and he assured me that he was, and he assured me that he didn't feel he had been badly treated."

Mr. Gardner, 35, was kidnapped by three gunmen on Monday morning as he walked between the WFP's Mogadishu office and his house. The gunmen stopped in a Toyota car with Mr. Gardner bundled inside. His release had been expected since Tuesday afternoon after he called on a mobile radio he was carrying.

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Tunisia denounces as lies allegations of Amnesty

TUNIS (AFP) — The Tunisian government reacted angrily Wednesday to allegations by Amnesty International of human rights abuses in the country, charging that they were fed to the organisation by Islamic fundamentalists.

A statement by the Department for Information said: "It seems that Amnesty International's sole reason for existence is to falsify reality in the face of all the evidence."

Amnesty International Wednesday what it called the "vawning chasm" between what Tunisia claims to be doing in favour of human rights, and "the reality... of systematic violations."

"Human rights violations are still systematic and brutal in Tunisia, and the government is still doing nothing about it," Amnesty said in a report.

It spoke of "thousands of people arbitrarily arrested, held in illegalcommunicado detention and tortured in the last three years."

The government here dismissed the report.

"We knew that this organisation had little regard for the truth. But we didn't know how much it had become linked to and manipulated by the fundamentalists," an official statement said.

Amnesty said in the report rights groups set up in Tunisia

were "all are characterised by lack of independence, powerlessness and secrecy."

"Seldom, if ever, does any part of this massive human rights bureaucracy prevent human rights abuse," it alleged.

Although the Tunisian government has claimed improvements in its human rights situation, Amnesty said, "in reality, nothing has changed."

Initially those targeted for abuse were supporters of Islamic opposition groups and the Communist Workers Party, said Amnesty.

"But now, the circle of repression is widening to include relatives, sympathisers and friends of government critics."

But the government insisted that the Tunisian Human Rights League, affiliated to an international movement, had not been dissolved and that it was preparing for its next conference on Feb. 5 and 6.

And the statement added that there were seven political parties in Tunisia, as well as a free press and a democratic process under which free elections were to be held on March 20.

"It is precisely this moment that Amnesty and its sleeping partners have chosen to publish a report of pure fiction in order to wilfully destroy it (this process)," the government statement added.

Belgium rejects Turks' request to ban PKK

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene told his Turkish counterpart Tansu Ciller Tuesday that he had no intention of banning the Kurdish separatist PKK in Belgium. "Belgium wholly condemns the actions of the PKK (Kurdish Labour Party)... but a ban on the PKK is not the best way to control them," Mr. Dehaene's spokeswoman quoted Ms. Ciller during a meeting in Brussels. The spokeswoman noted that Belgium did not plan to recognise the PKK either. She said Mr. Dehaene asked Ms. Ciller to solve the problem between the Turkish government and the Kurds, noting Belgium had succeeded in solving its community problems peacefully.

Editor jailed for insulting Turkish army

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish court on Tuesday sentenced the chief editor of a leftist newspaper to 10 months' jail for insulting the Turkish army, one of its editors said. Ferit Ilaver, chief editor of the daily Aydinlik, was sentenced for publishing an article last July about Turkish forces fighting a Kurdish rebellion in southeast Turkey.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Assad, Mubarak to meet after Geneva summit

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad shortly after the Syrian-U.S. summit meeting due to be held in Geneva on Sunday, the Al Ahram daily reported here in its Wednesday edition. Quoting a Syrian official, the newspaper said Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Assad would hold talks "in the next few days," but did not give the exact date or location of their meeting. They would discuss "the development of the peace process and the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries on all tracks." In a statement to Al Ahram Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Syria and the United States were "expecting decisive results" from the meeting between Mr. Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton on Jan. 16. "Real peace with Israel will only be achieved by giving a new impetus to the talks on all tracks: Syria, Palestinian, Jordanian and Lebanese," Mr. Sharaa said.

Group urges release of 15 prisoners held in Syria

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Human rights groups from the United States, Europe and Arab countries urged President Bill Clinton Tuesday to press for the immediate unconditional release of 15 prisoners in Syria. A coalition of 17 groups asked Mr. Clinton to press the issue of releasing the 15 human rights monitor, when Mr. Clinton meets with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Geneva on Sunday. The prisoners, including writers, attorneys and a university lecturer, all are members of the Independent Committee for the Defence of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria. It was founded in 1989 and charged under Syria's 30-year-old emergency law with membership in an illegal organisation, disseminating false information, and undermining the state after handing out leaflets critical of the government. The 17 non-governmental rights organisations include Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the International Human Rights Law group, as well as Moroccan, Tunisian, Algerian and Egyptian rights groups.

Netherlands to build floating Gaza port

TUNIS (R) — The Netherlands said Tuesday it would build and partly finance a floating port in the Gaza Strip, where Israel is due to hand over to a Palestinian authority. Economic Affairs Minister Yvonne van Rooy announced the 100 million guilder (\$51 million) project after talks in Tunis with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. "I met with Chairman Arafat and we have discussed the construction of a floating port in the Gaza Strip," Ms. Van Rooy told a news conference. The Netherlands would donate 40 million guilders (\$25.5 million) towards the cost of the project, to be completed over a one-year period, she said. During the meeting Mr. Arafat had asked for a quick start at the work, Dutch officials told Reuters. Technical details would be drawn up now that the financing had been taken care of. Ms. Van Rooy said she also discussed with Mr. Arafat Dutch assistance in reclaiming land from the sea in the Gaza Strip to set up facilities for making milk-based products. She plans to visit Israel and the occupied Gaza Strip during the first week of February. The Dutch minister, accompanied by a business delegation, made a three-day visit to Tunisia during which she also discussed bilateral cooperation with government officials.

Israelis held with false passports

KOMOTINI, Greece (AFP) — Three Israelis were detained in prison in this northern town Tuesday on charges of entering Greece as illegal immigrants and carrying false passports of four different countries. The three men, all residents of Tel Aviv, entered Greece on Jan. 6 in two luxury cars which did not belong to them, judicial officials said. They were carrying three false Israeli and six false French, British and Bulgarian passports, the officials said.

Libya hands over 3 suspects to Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Libya handed over three suspected militants to the Egyptian authorities on Tuesday. The newspaper said the three were "terrorists" who had infiltrated into Libya, but did not give details of their arrest. They were handed over at the Salum border post and then transferred to Cairo, where they were due to be interrogated by the Egyptian security services. Al Ahbar said meanwhile, the Al Ahram newspaper reported that Egyptian security forces had arrested 350 suspected militants, mostly in Upper Egypt, during operations in the past two weeks. They seized nearly 700 firearms and more than 440 kilograms of explosives, the daily said.

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Market prices

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apples 150/100

Pears (green) 150/100

Onions (green) 100/60

Carrots 60/30

Cabbages 60/30

Carrots 60/30

Onions (white) 60/30

Onions (red) 60/30

Onions (yellow) 60/30

Onions (green) 60/30

Onions (red) 60/30



Delegates from 12 Arab countries Wednesday attend the closing session of a seminar on social security (Petra photo)

Symposium urges protection of Arab migrant workers' rights

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium on social security in the Arab World ended in Amman Wednesday, with delegates from 12 Arab states calling on Arab governments to preserve and protect the rights of workers who move to work in other Arab states, as stipulated in a pan-Arab agreement sponsored by the Arab League.

The pan-Arab agreement provides for the Arab workers to have the right to their savings and end-of-service compensation as well as the right to

transfer earnings.

The participants urged the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), which organised the meeting, to help Arab states work out and adopt an Arab strategy on social security and serve as a catalyst in cooperation among Arab countries in the field of social security.

The delegates urged the ALO to conduct further research and studies aimed at promoting the concept and the philosophy of social security and upgrade the Arab states' social security systems.

Premier briefs Dutch delegation on progress of work at cancer centre, laws on health plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday briefed a Dutch delegation on stages accomplished in the establishment of Al Amal Cancer Centre and medical services presented by the government to citizens.

The delegation, which is visiting Jordan to evaluate work progress at the centre with the aim of extending financial and technical assistance worth \$7 million, was also briefed on legislation being drafted by the government to include all citizens in a comprehensive health plan, including cancer patients.

Dr. Majali affirmed to the delegation the keenness of the government to support the establishment of Al Amal Centre, which is considered a fully integrated one, including an early cancer detection unit and

Currently, the national task

departments aiming at spreading public awareness about the disease.

He said the government is looking for ways to cover the treatment of needy cancer patients. One of the ways would be the establishment of a poor patient fund, according to earlier statements by some officials.

Dr. Majali stressed the need to have early cancer detection centres around the Kingdom, noting that these centres would be affiliated to Al Amal Cancer Clinic.

The delegation members expressed the keenness of the government of the Netherlands to support this project through providing technical and scientific assistance to the centre, considered the first in the Arab region.

According to the regulations, revenues for the centre will be covered by the cost of the medical services, annual subscriptions of the sponsors and extra taxes which would be imposed on cigarettes and other materials thought to be a direct cause of cancer.

VTC to train young seamstresses

AMMAN (Petra) — A local clothing company and the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Wednesday concluded a deal on bilateral cooperation in providing vocational training to young women in two of the VTC centres.

The training, which is due to start as of the beginning of February will last for two years, according to the renewable contract.

Under the terms of the agreement, the VTC centres in Marka and Russeifa will be operated technically by the local firm which undertakes to train young women on dress making for mass production.

The local firm, owned and managed by Nadiem Muasher, will bring in an Italian expert in training in the dress-making business to supervise the training procedures and help raise the standard and efficiency and follow up on the implementation of training programmes, according to the terms of the agreement.

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To help supervise the implementation of the agreement, a six-member committee repre-

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Al Abdali at the Orlfai Art Gallery.
- ★ Photo exhibition by artist Muwaffaq Al Sheikh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwaish entitled "Talisma" at Beirut Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhrinissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

FILMS

- ★ Film in English on Spanish artist Miro (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khairi Khreis) at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh at 5:00 p.m. (on Thursday).
- ★ Film entitled "Strangers on a Train" at the American Center at 5:00, p.m. (100 minutes) (on Thursday).

SALE

- ★ Jordan River Designs offers things for sale at the showroom in Jabal Luweibdeh (Thursday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 656872/528760)

Winter seems to be coming at last

AMMAN (J.T.) — At last heavy rain is coming, but not until tomorrow, Friday, as a result of a depression that has been created over the central parts of the Mediterranean Sea and is moving slowly eastwards.

The Department of Meteorology said Wednesday that Thursday the weather will be warm, with a little rise in temperature, making way for the high winds and the rains to fall Friday.

According to the department, the rains will cover almost all regions as successive cold fronts would affect the country and the eastern Mediterranean region.

The rains and the high, south-westerly winds will cause a noticeable drop in temperatures, it added.

Jordan, Sweden sign cooperation agreement

AMMAN — An agreement regarding technical cooperation between Sweden and Jordan in the field of traffic safety was signed on Wednesday by the General Director of Public Security Major-General Abdul Rahman Al Udwani and Hans Eriksson, vice president of SweRoad, a subsidiary to the National Swedish Road Administration, in the presence of the ambassador of Sweden in Amman, Christian Bausch.

The agreement will cover cooperation in such traffic-related fields as:

- Development of an accident reporting system.
- Establishing a training centre for drivers and instructors.

- Assessment of traffic personnel and preparation of special training programmes.

- Review of traffic laws and regulations, especially those related to drivers' licences and registration of vehicles.

- Organisational adjustments in the licensing and traffic departments.

The Swedish government's contribution to this project amounts to 2865,000 Crowns equivalent to approximately JD 230,000.

Presently, five other Swedish-Jordanian technical cooperation projects are in the process of preparation or implementation. They are related to the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Jordanian Telecommunication, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Industrial Development Bank and the Al Amal Cancer Clinic.

In addition to setting up the so-called poor patient fund, the task force is also thinking of launching several investment projects so as to ensure that the cost of running the centre, estimated at JD 3 million annually, would be covered.

According to the regulations, revenues for the centre will be covered by the cost of the medical services, annual subscriptions of the sponsors and extra taxes which would be imposed on cigarettes and other materials thought to be a direct cause of cancer.

Mr. Madani, who is also director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, said the Indo-Jordan Petrochemicals Company was established with a joint capital provided by the Phosphate Mines Company, the South India Petrochemicals Company and the Jeddah-based Arab Investment Company.

He said that under the terms of the agreement, the International Investments Company will work on securing the remainder of the amount needed to finance the project in cooperation with a French banking group, a Finnish bank and a group of local banks, pointing

out that this agreement is now in its final stages.

This agreement and those which will follow are a result of the belief of the International Investments Corporation and the other financiers in the feasibility of the project, he said.

The financiers have accepted to have the project as self-guarantor and agreed that the debts be served from the project revenues without providing any government or private guarantees, Mr. Madani said.

Once the project is completed in 1996, he said, it will be consuming 750,800 tonnes of Jordanian phosphates annually. Its whole production of phosphoric acid, estimated at 225,000 tonnes annually, will be sold to India, in accordance with long-term agreements, he added.

According to Mr. Madani, the project whose annual revenues will be between \$70-\$80 million, will provide job opportunities for about 400 Jordanians.

It is hoped, he said, that the agreement would open the way for the creation of a national man-power training centre.

capable of supplying the clothing and dress-making industry with all its needs, especially as many of the Jordanian firms in this field are planning to export a major part of their products.

Yousef Hiyasat, director general of the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) who signed the two contracts, said that the first agreement concerns the installation of an infrastructure network, like water, sewerage, roads, electricity, retaining walls, etc., for 458 plots of land on which housing and business units are to be set up.

The 458 plots will be included within a 200 dunum area of land. Each plot ranges from 50 to 150 square metres in area and is to be sold to the beneficiaries to set up homes on them, said Mr. Hiyasat who also noted that some of these units will be sold to low-income groups at subsidised prices, that is far less than the cost price.

The difference in the cost will be covered through the sale of the larger plots, at the same site, to entrepreneurs starting businesses and for commercial purposes.

Noting that most of the plots will benefit the limited-income groups, Mr. Hiyasat said that the project, which is located east of Amman, would be set up for the sake of those who have never benefited from the department's housing schemes before.

According to Mr. Hiyasat,

work on the project was due to start on Jan. 15 at the cost of JD 1.5 million. He said that work on the project would take at least 14 months to be completed.

The project entails building 40,000 square metres of roads, 8,000 square metres of pedestrian paths, 10,000 metres of water networks, 8,000 metres of sewerage and rain water networks, in addition to other civil works which include telephone and electricity cable networks.

Mr. Hiyasat said that the second contract provides for the construction of community centres in Manara, along with a health centre in Marqeb and a 2,700 square metre girl's school and a recreational centre for the community.

Two local firms to carry out work at Manara, Marqeb estates

AMMAN (Petra) — Two local construction firms Wednesday won two contracts to carry out the fourth phase of Al Manara Housing Estate and to build community services for Al Manara and Al Marqeb estates.

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Opinion & Analysis

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Sweet and sour

IT WAS quite refreshing and encouraging to hear U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown talking about economic development of the Middle East being translated into tangible improvement in the standard of life of the people of the region. Mr. Brown's comments, made during a satellite teleconference on the eve of his visit to the Middle East next week, underlined a clear understanding of a very basic pillar of any peace agreement — that the people, the ordinary man and woman in the street, have to feel that peace, coming after decades of bloodshed, bitter struggle and untold sufferings, has changed their lives for the better and that their sacrifices are rewarded in equal measure. It is probably worth mentioning here that the people who have been making the sacrifices were always limited to one side of the Arab-Israeli divide.

The gaping disparity in the per capita income in Israel and in the Arab countries neighbouring it is the best indicator of who paid the price for the continuing conflict and who benefited from it. Can there be any comparison, for example, between Israel's \$11,000 per capita income and Jordan's \$1,020? The scenario gets worse when one considers that the publicly acknowledged American assistance to Israel is as much as 75 per cent of Jordan's gross domestic product.

In any event, for Jordan, which has always argued that peace and stability cannot be guaranteed unless the concept is inevitably linked to a better living for the people, Mr. Brown's comments were very reassuring if only because the U.S. secretary highlighted the direction of thinking in Washington, which, whether it acknowledges it or not, does wield the influence and power to change the lives of the people.

At the same time, it was disturbing to note that Washington is also determined to press for the lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel. While all of us in this region look forward to regional cooperation and interaction that would upgrade our lives, it goes without saying that the Arab economic embargo against Israel did not come out of a vacuum and it could not be addressed in a vacuum.

First and foremost, it has to be understood that the economic boycott of Israel is the only instrument left in the Arab hands to ensure that the Jewish state abides by international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions while arriving at a peace settlement. Any move to lift the Arab boycott at this point in time, when it is not even established that Israel is indeed in any mood to address the legitimate Arab demands, whether in terms of territory, water or refugees, will be a grave political concession that will not bode well at all for the Arab quest for an equitable settlement to the root conflict.

To pressure the Arab countries to make such a political concession in return, possibly, for American moves to improve the living conditions of their people is very short-sighted at best.

Welcoming realistic American moves towards tangible economic development of the region is one thing, but to seek to link such move with political concession on the Arab side is something else.

Such a linkage is particularly disturbing for us in Jordan. The Kingdom has been going out of the way and dealing with the Palestinians in the occupied territories to alleviate their economic problems under occupation by buying their products while it remained under an Israeli ban against its exports to the Palestinians. And judging from Israeli moves, it is also clear that the Jewish state, if given its way, has no intention of relaxing its grip on the Palestinian market.

Either way, any consideration of the lifting of the embargo on Israel does not make sense for us here at this point in time, both politically and economically.

We could only hope that while speaking in economic terms, Mr. Brown and others accompanying him would not be trying to slip a fast one on us by implicitly demanding concessions which, at this point in time, mean nothing but an encouragement for Israel not to budge from its refusal to address legitimate Arab demands, including those of Jordan.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FEW ARE those Arab states and Arab leaders who are keen on preserving Yemen's unity, but, regrettably, many are those who are bent on concocting conspiracies to see the Yemeni people divided, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said Jordan is one of a few Arab states keen on maintaining Yemen's unity and it is the only Arab state to spearhead efforts towards ensuring that the Yemeni people are holding on to their unity. The paper said that Jordan is keen on making speedy moves aimed at foiling hostile attempts designed to dismember Yemen and deepen divisions among its leaders and people. Jordan is motivated by a national and pan-Arab responsibility and feels it is a duty not only to Yemen, but to the whole Arab World to try to keep the Yemeni people united at all costs, continued the paper. Preserving Yemen's unity would be a success for Jordan and all those Arabs true in their efforts to bolster the Arab Nation and to remove differences among the Yemeni leaders because this would be a defeat to the enemy plots against the Arab Nation, said the paper. The paper expressed hope that the Yemeni people who achieved unity three years ago would offer sacrifices and exert all possible efforts to preserve this unity and achieve part of the dreams of Arab masses and bring joy to millions.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily lashed at the United States for maintaining sanctions on the Iraqi people, accusing Washington of seeking to achieve its own selfish interests. It is because the Iraqis have tried to reach agreement with Japan to exploit the oil and market it independently from the United States that Washington launched war on Iraq, charged Tareq Masa'weh. It is because the Iraqi oil would keep the Japanese industry going to the detriment of the American economy that Mr. Bush fought a war against Iraq, he said. The writer said that the United States sent in troops to Somalia, fought the Vietnamese people and is showing hostility towards Sudan only because of its selfish interests and because it was proven through American oil firms that oil exists in Somalia and in southern Sudan.

The resumption of the Taba talks — a time of rejoice and concern

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

WE VIEW the resumption of peace talks in Taba between the Palestinians and the Israelis with both joy and anxiety. On the one hand, one is truly heartened to see the two sides, despite the many dead ends they keep running into and the irritating disputes over procedure (still) and substance, come to the negotiating table with renewed hope and strong will. Undoubtedly, we highly commend the PLO's and Israel's ability to recuperate after each fall or unpleasant encounter, their determination to have fresh start, their perseverance, and their commitment to the establishment of peace on the basis of the Sept. 13 accord. The sheer fact that the two sides are meeting and attempting to resolve the differences, irrespective of the outcome, is itself a significant achievement. No matter what, talks are better than no talks. Indeed, to see the PLO and Israel, who a few months ago had no serious communication going on, sit down face to face, with many little outside help or mediation, and debate matters openly, uninhibited and cordially is a development worth applauding. This ought to have happened years ago.

Furthermore, real progress has in fact been made. Statements by officials from both delegations make it clear that the two sides have addressed issues other than the three on which there has been serious disagreement (the size of the Jericho area, etc.) and that, more importantly, the exchange of views over these other issues has passed quite smoothly. The understanding we have here is that the discussion of such matters will not be as thorny, unconvincing and upsettingly slow as that of the former three. Such news is indeed welcome.

But welcome is also the news about the three controversial points themselves. A careful reading of comments to the press by the PLO and Israel reveals that the two have not been totally stuck on the questions of the size of the Jericho area, the border crossings with Jordan and Egypt and the security of the Israeli settlements in the Gaza region. Far from it, for both parties have altered their positions somewhat significantly in an attempt to reach a common ground. The Cairo controversy, the way I understand it, is not so much about whether the two sides have agreed or not, but about how much agreement there has been. Tangible results have been, and are being, realized.

Certainly, we appreciate all of this. On the other hand, however, there are causes for some worry or concern. The first has to do with the wide discrepancy between the expectations of both sides regarding the amount of time needed to tackle the various matters and the frequent disagreement over the degree of progress made throughout and upon the conclusion of each round of talks. In the very first day of the current round of negotiations, for instance, the Palestinian delegation declared that the two parties should in two weeks be ready to sign an agreement; the Israeli delegation objected immediately, saying that at least six to eight weeks were needed for an agreement to be signed. Frankly speaking, we find such statements both puzzling and pointless. Of course, they may be part and parcel of the game of politics. They may also express what each side wishes to see happening: the Palestinians are in a hurry, the Israelis are taking their time. Nevertheless, to an informed and sincere observer, such behaviour, no matter how one looks at it, appears unnecessarily playful, absurd, amateurish, and highly unprofessional. The second day the Israelis announced that the two sides had come to

an understanding regarding the size of the Jericho area; the Palestinians hastened to deny such an understanding. What can we poor observers make of this?

The second cause of worry, stemming from the first, is Israel's obvious disrespect of deadlines. When the two parties met in Oslo and drafted the historic accord, they included an important timeline. To be sure, the dates specified in the agreement are not written in gold nor engraved in marble. Israel does not have to withdraw precisely on the very specific day it is supposed to withdraw. After all, these are approximate dates set up to organise and facilitate the process. At the same time, however, we must insist that such deadlines (which were mutually approved) must be respected as much as possible. To go to the other extreme (as Israel is doing) and say (as Israel is saying) that these deadlines are neither "sacred" nor "binding" and that "we (the Israelis) will take as much time as we see fit" reflects very negatively on Israel. Such indifferent attitude reflects also a certain degree of selfishness, irresponsibility, and even causes harm to the peace process. Suppose the deadlines were in Israel's favour. Would it procrastinate and take its time? I seriously doubt it.

I am under the impression at times, and I hope that I am mistaken, that Israel thinks peace is in the interest of the Palestinians and the Arabs only. Such notion is absolutely false, for Israel has as much to gain from a post-war era as the Palestinians and the Arabs, if not more; its true security and prosperity depend almost entirely on it.

To me, the peace talks are a test not only of the PLO's and Israel's negotiating ability and intention but also of their very personality or character. The Gaza/Jericho accord is not a business transaction between a buyer and a seller who do not know each other and who, upon the completion of the transaction, may never see each other, but a sacred covenant between two neighbours who plan to live side by side forever and conduct business on the basis of genuine mutual respect, sincerity, integrity, and fairness. In my opinion, the present talks will set the tone for the future relationship among the so-called children of Abraham and shall epitomise very concretely what the new Middle East will look like.

Therefore, the two sides ought to exercise more discretion in whatever they assert or announce. Why say, for instance, two or six or eight weeks? In fact, why impose time limits from day one? Let the two parties take as much time as they actually need, without either rushing things or procrastinating, until they come to a full agreement on the basic issues. This does not mean, however, that we have all the time in the world at our disposal. Additionally, we want the two delegations to go about conducting their business in a more disciplined, orderly, and efficient manner. In particular, we expect them to articulate in very precise terms the extent of agreement reached or disagreement there still exists. This could be done quite simply through a joint communiqué at the end either of each working day or each round. Why this is not happening is beyond me. Above all, we would like to see more flexibility from Israel and less nit-picking, less fuss over petty little things. Why this ado about the size of the Jericho area, the border crossings, and the security of the Israeli settlements in Gaza when (as Israel well knows) all of these will eventually be, on the basis of the U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and the Sept. 13 accord itself, under full Palestinian control at the end of the autonomy period?

M. KAHLI



U.S. sanctions policies coming under fire

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — From Serbia to Haiti, Iraq to Libya, the United States and its allies are relying on economic sanctions to combat rogue regimes. Do they work?

There is no question that sanctions have the power to impoverish nations and increase disease and malnutrition.

But are they effective in forcing governments to change their behaviour and obey the will of the international community? More and more people have their doubts.

That essentially is still the problem today. In Haiti, the United States now has an emergency programme to feed almost 900,000 people every day — people whose livelihoods have been destroyed by sanctions. Still, said Mr. Natsios, "We can't get our food and medicine delivered to many places and malnutrition rates are rising among children."

Faced with such stories, scientists and churchmen have joined the debate. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists put out a special edition on sanctions last November.

Editor Mike Moore wrote:

"Although sanctions have surely contributed to malnutri-

tion in Iraq, one supposes (President) Saddam Hussein has never involuntarily missed a meal."

U.S. Roman Catholic bishops included a clause in a document on peacemaking issued late last year which said that sweeping sanctions were only justified in response to aggression or "grave and ongoing injustice" and that the harm they caused should always be measured against the good they were likely to achieve.

One State Department official conceded that sanctions were "a blunt instrument which hurt populations" but said the United States always tried to provide humanitarian assistance for those who suffered.

"Is there a reassessment of sanctions as a tool of policy? Not that I'm aware of," the official said.

One study on the effectiveness of sanctions by the Institute for International Economics in Washington examined 104 cases since World War II. It found they succeeded in about a third of cases, usually when the goals were modest and well-defined.

"Sanctions have proved to be a way of waging war against all the people of a state, but you're not guaranteed results for a long time," he said.

Supporters of sanctions point to their success in achieving majority rule and eventual independence for Zimbabwe in the early 1980s and in forcing South Africa's white regime to abandon apartheid and agree to a multiracial society.

Mr. Natsios believes sanctions were effective in those cases because the white governments concerned were responsive to white opinion. "For sanctions to work there has to be a political system where popular pressure can work," he said.

This is clearly not the case in Iraq, Haiti or Serbia. In the latter case, sanctions have failed to halt the war in Bosnia or weaken President Slobodan Milosevic, though they have destroyed the Serbian economy, fuelling hyperinflation.

George Kenney of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace believes sanctions may have strengthened Mr. Milosevic politically rather than weakening him.

"Sanctions have proved to be a way of waging war against all the people of a state, but you're not guaranteed results for a long time," he said.

Israel is not a Jewish state

By Khaled A. Eisham

the creation of Adam and Eve implies a common origin for all people and therefore a basic equality between them. God in Judaism is universal; it is the God of all, who blesses all nations and who considers the Jews "as the children of Ethiopia and India." Therefore, the vision of salvation includes all nations.

Outstanding Jewish thinkers, recognised the racial, chauvinistic, isolationist, narrow-minded, and totalitarian — nationalist elements of Zionism and warned against their consequences. They considered "Jewish nationalism" contrary to the "universalist interpretation of Jewish history and destiny."

A number of Jewish intellectuals, representing different generations and professions, have rejected the existence of a Jewish state based on the support of the Jewish world. Zionism would turn into a soap bubble ready to burst any moment. That is why they try to build in every Jew the belief that Zionism and Judaism are inseparable and are the two sides of the same organism. One of these Zionist leaders who became the first president of Israel stated, for example: "Our Jewishness and our Zionism were interchangeable; you could not destroy the second without destroying the first."

Judaism and Zionism have very little in common and are actually two conflicting outlooks. Zionism is a political movement seeking to recast the spiritual and religious concepts of Judaism in ethnic and materialistic terms. As such, it cannot claim any religious sanctity. Zionism not only reinterprets the historical experience of Jewry in terms of the same ethnicity. In its definition of Judaism and Jewry, Zionism echoes in many respects the literature of anti-Semitism. The Jews, according to the gentile Zionist plan, were to be "restored" to Palestine in order to rid Europe of their presence and to turn them, simultaneously into agents of their colonial sponsors.

Judaism, on the other hand, is a combination of philosophical, moral, religious, cultural, ethical, ideological and legal views: it is a purposeful doctrine and universal notion. In practice, Zionism could hardly have spread to any considerable extent were it not for its clinging to the idea of the need to create for the Jews their own state.

In this respect, Israel cannot claim to be a Jewish state, for this contradicts the definition of a Jew in Judaism. In addition, many rabbis rejected "the nationalistic" political Zionist interpretation of Judaism. They believed the Jews to be a religious community, and declaring Palestine a national home for the Jews a "crime against... the visions of their great prophets... (and that) a Jewish state involves fundamental limitations as to race and religion, or else the term 'Jewish' means nothing."

It is clear then why Zionism and Israel were rejected by many religious Jews and regarded as the latest and least reputable "catastrophic pseudo-messianic" heresy; and why they asserted that they did not expect "a return to Palestine."

It is therefore unfortunate that while Jewish intellectuals, rabbis and thinkers, reject the Zionist entity in Palestine, our intellectuals and leaders accept it and call it a Jewish state, when it is not at all.

The writer has a Master's degree in International Relations and works as a translator at Al Rayad Centre for Information and Study in Amman. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

One-sided news

To the Editor:

Regarding your editorial on Tuesday (Messenger with bad news?) Jordan Times, Jan. 11, 1994), commenting on Prime Minister Mapai's blurring the media for continued strain in Jordan-Gulf ties, I would like to say a few words.

Although I strongly support free speech and democracy and writers, I feel that the Jordanian writers and columnists are more influenced by their own political and ideological background than by the feelings of the "silent majority" of this country.

So in this new era of democracy, I urge the government to state clearly their stands and opinions to the public and not leave us in the dark, to be influenced by one-sided opinions only. We have the right to know and to share our stand and opinions.

I also urge all Jordanians to support their opinions in our democratic Jordan by writing to the press or to their representatives in the Parliament. It is about time all Jordanians share in building democracy.

Metri Twal,
P.O. Box 35241,
Amman.

Weekender



Jan. 13, 1994

Published Every Thursday

Drama in education — a real change from old methods

By Mohammad Masharga

Drama in education is no more confined to a limited number of private or "pioneering schools" in Jordan. The successful experiments, spearheaded by Samar Dudin, Edwina Issa and Margo Malajanian to introduce a real change in the traditional educational methods, have now become the main concern of those involved in developing educational curricula in Jordan.

The first national educational conference of 1987 held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has reasserted the need for coping with modern developments in education, culture and arts.

Subsequently sharp criticism has been levelled at the traditional educational methods in the Kingdom because they rely mainly on lecturing, a method which does not provide the minimum level of knowledge to the children, neither does it give students an incentive to pursue the quest for knowledge through analysis or other means.

British-born Edwina Issa, who has lived in Jordan for many years, specialises in drama in education. She has had a lot of experience in this field through teaching at Jordan's private schools. Now following years of hesitancy, some schools and institutes have started to introduce drama in their curricula and courses.

Edwina Issa represents Jordan in the International Society for Drama in Education which groups representatives of 30 nations. Jordan is the only Arab country affiliated to this society.

Issa speaks about her own experience in using drama in education. Her view is that some people mix up this kind of method in teaching with theatre acting while others define drama as a form of teaching through play. This indeed tends to contort the concept of drama in education, she says.

For Issa drama in education is a set of strategies used to induce thinking in a person and to make him analyse what he sees in a variety of ways. What drama has presented to him is a collection of signs or movements running in harmony with his national culture and habits.

It is rather not possible to transfer, or translate, signs or cultures of other nations in a perfect manner, but drama in education tends to help children discover aspects of other cultures nearer to their own concept of life, according to Issa.

"We are nearing the end of the 20th century and we must make sure that our children will not remain subject

to blind obedience", stresses Issa. "Reform should start with the education system by deleting all those elements that tend to bring up children in a manner that makes them agree to things offered them without any thinking."

Instead, she continues, "one has to develop in the children a sense of judging and evaluating things and situations by themselves."

"Children ought to be helped in this respect. They should be assisted in understanding the meanings of the act in drama, to understand life around them and how to create an imaginary play. Since his birth a child tries to understand his environment and in his mind he tries to re-arrange things and grasp their meanings. In imagining plays, a child is thus trying to create his first drama. Later he searches for values, justice, etc., in his contact with members of the family and in his school life," Issa says.

She notes that modern education methods does not offer ready-made cultural concepts and values but the drama in education plays a big role in imparting these concepts to the children in an indirect manner that requires the children to use their common sense in analysing situations and making their own conclusions.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Today, and in the light of the so-called cultural invasion by "artificial culture", one ought to resort to modern educational methods and techniques which can help children cope with this challenge, which is represented in the omnipresence of technology and the dominant capitalist concept that has turned the world into a mere village controlled from afar.

While our Arab culture is an expression of our life and our faith, we are confronted with an artificial culture whose values are based on non-essential materials and wealth. Hence we fear a horrible cultural future for our children.

The question is: How can drama and theatre help us cope with the contradiction and the conflicting cultures and how can through drama children learn values and real culture?

Our culture should serve as a model to which one can safely resort and through drama we can best suggest to our children ideas, behavioural patterns and forms of

good conduct, according to Issa.

Reflecting on the spread of drama in education, Issa says while admitting that a real change and modern trends must be introduced to the educational system in Jordan, drama is still used by a handful of private schools and reform is progressing very slowly. She believes it is not a matter of admitting that we need drama in education but rather in providing the requirements and in recruiting teachers for this objective, in addition to offering incentives and motives to the instructors and encouraging them to pursue their efforts.

This kind of teaching, she adds, requires a great deal of recruiting and preparation, and also special programmes something which is obviously not possible under the present circumstances in which we see teachers, who are expected to be creative, leading a very poor life.

"We should first provide the teachers with a decent means of living to safeguard their dignity before thinking about changing methods in education," stresses Issa.

In her view, any creative topic requires a great deal of preparation on the part of the teachers who cannot afford the means to do that or have access to the right sources as many spend the afternoon in another job to make both ends meet.

In an age of technology and in view of the hundreds of television channels, children's minds are deeply affected because what they watch is a novelty to their mind, quite different from what they have been taught before. Therefore drama in education ought to be of good quality and we should try our best to present something acceptable to the minds of our children — a substitute to what they see on television — thus helping our children to think for themselves and create their own imaginations.

Issa proposes the following points as basic principles for drama in education:

1— Drama in education should reflect our feelings, our traditions and cultures.

2— Acting and presentation should enhance the message directed to the targeted audience.

3— The signs should be genuine in reflecting the real objectives.

4— Drama tales should propose certain themes and concepts similar to those existing in society.

BOOK REVIEW

Haj Amin — a Palestinian leader

The Grand Maraf: Haj Amin Al Husseini, Founder of the Palestinian National Movement (London, Frank Cass Ltd., 1993, 229pp.)

By Zvi Elpeleg

This book is a thoughtful, though at times impressionistic and rather narrative, analysis of the political career of Haj Amin Al Husseini which spanned from the early 1920s until his death in 1974. In a historical study, Elpeleg (a former military governor of many areas in the occupied Arab territories and currently a research associate at the Dizyan Centre, Tel Aviv University), examines the involvement of Amin Al Husseini in Palestinian and regional politics.

In the first chapter, the author exposes the familial and clanish rivalries that characterised Palestinians' national struggle in the face of the Jewish immigration to Palestine which was conducted under the patronage of the British colonial authority. He also examines how Amin Al Husseini exploited and manipulated domestic, Arab and international events to serve the Palestinian cause while simultaneously advancing his personal ambitions and ensuring the hegemony of the Husseini clan.

In the second chapter, the author, among other things, examines Husseini's involvement in Iraq in the late thirties and his controversial relationship with the Nazis and fascists in Germany and Italy. In studying this period (especially Haj Amin's alleged part in the Final Solution), the author is markedly lucid and factual. However, because of the selectivity in highlighting certain historical incidents to the exclusion of others, one cannot help feeling that Haj Amin's impact on the course of Palestinian and Arab history during that period is rather overstated. This is probably due to the fact that the author is using history to underpin the major theme of his book — namely, that his protagonist (Haj Amin Al Husseini) was the central navigator of Palestinian destiny.

In the third and fourth chapters the author highlights the Arab involvement in the Palestinian question, where Haj Amin's maximalist approach and his alignment with the Arab rejectionist camp (especially with Qassem of Iraq and Nasser of Egypt), is manifest. Contrary, however, to what may appear in this chapter, Husseini's intransigence during this formative period of Palestinian national struggle is probably marked by egotism rather than genuine concern for the welfare of the Palestinians. His involvement in the "All-Palestine Government" which was established in Gaza in 1948 against the sincere advice of many Arab leaders together with his confrontation with the late King Abdullah of Jordan who pursued more realistic policies, is a testimony to Haj Amin's relentless pursuit of authority, come what may. Additionally, contrary to the picture drawn by the author, the unification of the West Bank with Jordan can, in historical perspective, be indeed seen as a reflection of the wishes of the majority of the Palestinians, which considered King Abdullah as a saviour of Palestine. The mentioning of the active involvement of many radical Palestinians (i.e.: Ba'athists, Communists, pan-Arabists, ...etc.) in the various pro-unity popular conferences that took place in many cities in the West Bank prior to unification, is conspicuously absent from the author's account.

In the fifth chapter, the decline of the status of Haj Amin (especially after the establishment of the PLO under the chairmanship of Ahmad Shuqairi in 1964), is examined in more details. The excluded and embittered Haj Amin sought to align himself with almost whoever opposed that organisation. However, the establishment of the PLO not only further marginalised his role, it also completely hijacked initiative from him. Eventually, Haj Amin chose to devote more time to writing his memoirs.

Although the book is on the whole properly researched and presented, the author on few occasions oversteps the boundary of biographical objectivity by making gratuitous snipes and putting forward allegations not substantiated by empirical evidence. This is manifest in the rather unbalanced manner in which he examines the 1970-71 clashes between the Jordanian army and factions of the PLO. The author, contrary to historical and academic convention, glibly (if rather not at all disinterestedly) claims that the Jordanian regime "erased the name of Palestine from the map, and... effaced the Palestinian identity". (p. 170).

Amin Al Husseini is rightly credited with influencing the evolution of Palestinians' "right to return" (Haq Al Awdah), and bringing more Islamic involvement in the Palestinian issue through the various Islamic summits and conferences that he had chaired and convened. But, it is, however, grossly inaccurate to view him as the founder of the Palestinian national movement, for before the 1936 revolt large numbers of Palestinians, rightly or wrongly, considered Haj Amin to be pro-British because of his reluctance to give his public support to the nationalist camp. Furthermore, until the consolidation of the PLO there was never a central Palestinian movement which collectively embraced Palestinian resistance (which was traditionally factionalised and ridden with all sorts of ideological and personal conflict). Needless to say, the secularisation of Palestine, together with its subjugation to the vicissitudes of inter-Arab rivalries curtailed, if not trivialised, the roles played by traditional leaders like that of Haj Amin.

SA'ADY MISTER AL RIMAWI

Thoughts for this week

All sins are attempts to fill voids — Simone Weil, French philosopher (1909-1943)

The fear of life is the favourite disease of the 20th century — William Lyon Phelps, American educator and journalist (1865-1943)

Wings over Jordan

By Judy Leden

We were invited to hang glide in Jordan by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. They covered the costs of fares, freight, accommodation and transport. Citroen UK covered the remaining expenses of hiring a Cosmos microlight, insurance and photography. The expedition was arranged by Yasmine Saudi, a Jordanian student at Imperial College. The rest of the team comprised Ben Ashman as tug pilot, Niall O'Connor, Bill Jongeane and myself. We were allocated two military personnel to accompany us. This was to stop us inadvertently flying into sensitive areas, or over the Israeli border! The Jordanian Air Force was incredibly helpful. In allowing us to use their immaculate base at Amman Airport to unpack and test our equipment. By aerotowing standards, the airport was enormous. The runway was 3,000 metres long, 50 metres wide and we were given "carte blanche" to fly wherever we wanted!

Amman

Amman was spectacular from the air, surrounded by impressive hills scorched brown by the relentless sun. To the west, the rim of the Rift Valley was visible where it dropped down to the Dead Sea 1,500 metres below. Bill, Yasmine and Niall were introduced to aerotowing with no problems, enjoying the smooth evening air above Amman. We were bombarded with questions from an ever growing crowd of uniformed spectators, many of them at home in fast jets were fascinated by our portable, foot-launched planes! Ben rose to the occasion, treating the onlookers to a microlight display and orbiting the control tower with permission and wingtip just inches from the windows!

The following day we experienced our only major setback. Ben invited Colonel Saudi for a flight in the microlight. The colonel was a fighter pilot with thousands of hours airtime in jets. As Ben landed with a 15 km/h cross wind, the trike swerved violently from side to side. A wheel, which should have been attached to the undercarriage, came rolling past them. Ben managed to keep the trike the right way up until it finally slid to a halt. The emergency services bolted into action and an ambulance and fire engine were dispatched to the scene, sirens and lights blazing. They looked disappointed to find they were not needed. There was however damage to bolts, plates, one tube and the axle. Ben was whisked into the Military Engineering Department and emerged triumphant two hours later with a wheel off a luggage trailer which fitted perfectly!

Petra

The next day we left for Petra, two vehicles for the four hour journey, while Ben flew the trike and arrived at the luxurious Petra Forum Hotel, to find the microlight parked in front and Ben enjoying a hero's reception after landing in the tiny hotel car park. Petra means "rock" and it is surrounded by massive, weird shaped rocks which appear impenetrable. The only entrance is through the narrowest of gorges, a kilometre long, the sides of which are russet-red and 100 metres high. At the end of the cleft is the spectacular sight of the Treasury-tomb of a Nabataean king from the 1st century B.C. Immaculately preserved, the rose-red mausoleum towers 45 metres high and 30 metres wide, carved out of the cliff.

There was one acceptable landing place. It was in the middle of the city, at the bottom of the valley and it was tight! Bordered on one side by a 300 metres high cliff with a colonnade of tombs at the base, and on all other sides by steep boulder-strewn slopes, we would have to land on a track in between.

There was a small road on the mountainside above Petra which was suitable for aerotow. So we rigged the gliders while the entire police force (4 officers) stopped traffic and kept the crowds back. Once a herd of goats



The microlight tows a glider over Wadi Rum

Jerash

We packed up our gear once more and headed for Jerash, an extraordinary well preserved Roman city, north of Amman. The ruts made by the wheels of Roman chariots still dent the flagstones. The amphitheatre seats 3,000 and is still used for the annual Jerash Festival.

The next morning we found a tarmac road just above the city and rigged the gliders. The early morning peace was soon broken by the ever increasing number of people who gathered to watch our travelling circus. The air was turbulent as we towed up over the city. From above, Jerash looked quite different. The columns appeared so small that what really stood out was the perfect geometric pattern of the streets.

We loaded for the return journey to Amman. I flew the microlight back, watching the transition from the fertile green hills of Gilead to the brown, arid slopes surrounding Amman. I towed Niall and Bill high over the city that evening, landing with the dazzle of three kilometres of runway lights below.

The next day, Bill, Niall and Yasmine flew at Mt Nebo where Moses is buried. It is on the western edge of the plateau overlooking the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. The strong wind eventually dropped to allow them to launch, but quickly faded to nothing, curtailing their flying.

On our last day, we met the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities to report on our trip. We also met His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Patron of our expedition. A meeting was arranged for that afternoon with King Hussein. I had wanted to meet him for a long time as his enthusiasm for aviation is legendary. Wearing our Sunday best, we were escorted to the Royal Squadron. The King arrived, all smiles, and made us very welcome. He was fascinated by our expedition and was delighted that we had enjoyed his country so much. He gave us each a watch with the royal emblem and wished us well.

All that remained was to pack the hang gliders into boxes and return home. Two weeks had passed so quickly and we had merely scratched the surface of this beautiful country. There was so much more to see, so much more flying to do! There are few countries in the world where pilots would be encouraged to fly amongst the national monuments and parks, where the police even turn out to help! It was a privilege to fly in Jordan.

The article is reprinted from the French magazine Cross Country.

Wars without tears

By Jean-Claude Elias

The struggle between the giant software houses to win the world market looks more like a war than a fight. It even bears some similarities with the current multi-million dollars advertisement war between the two, well known soft drink makers.

The long lasting battle Microsoft and WordPerfect have been fighting for the winning Windows-based word processing programme has just entered a new phase. Both companies are announcing a new release of their best selling programmes, WordPerfect by the company bearing the same name as its programme and Word by Microsoft.

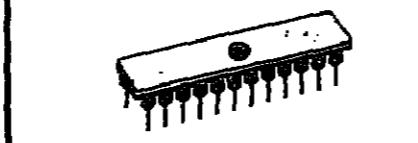
Surprisingly both new releases have the same version number 6. Though very aggressive, the confrontation is not a bloody one. Both software designers have somehow acknowledged each other's strength and have made this admission public.

WordPerfect implicitly recognised the power of Microsoft system when they launched their Windows-based version of WordPerfect. Microsoft, on the other hand, welcomed WordPerfect users and offered them a very intelligent, friendly way to learn Word via WordPerfect commands. It sounds unbelievable but it's true.

Apparently, and from the user's point of view at least, it seems calm, positive and enjoyable. Almost friendly. The obvious aim of each contender however, is to make word processing users switch to their respective programme and throw the other out of the race.

Official figures concerning the percentage of users of Word versus those of WordPerfect are not available. Nevertheless, reports from specialised U.S. and British magazines make it reasonable to estimate that both software packages have an equal share of the processing world market and that together, they control more than

chip talk



90 per cent of it. A quick survey of the trend in Jordan confirms the above.

In a normal situation, the consumer would be the clear winner of any competitive situation, for he ends up with a better and cheaper product. It might not be the case when it comes to Word and WordPerfect.

In order to try and win the users' support and endorsement, the programmes, designers, unable to really improve on the basic characteristics of the existing versions of the software, are stuffing, cramming the packages with countless, often unnecessary features. The result is programmes that are long to install, occupy a lot of disk space, become slower and more difficult to use.

Even with the current releases of Word and WordPerfect, I have not met someone, professionals included, who could use 60 or 70 per cent of the programmes. Software superiority should not be based on the number of the proposed feature but rather on their quality and importance. Experienced operators would gladly sacrifice a given function if to use it once a year only, while it would occupy additional disk space, reduce the programme overall performance and congest the screen.

The final verdict, as always, will come from the users feedback, even if it will take some time.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

AMAZING FACTS

- * In the tropical zones there are bats the size of cats which have 5-foot wings and live on fruits.
- * A Californian cattleman accidentally discovered gold when he stumbled down during a cattle chase.
- * Two islands in the world carry the name "Christmas". One in the Indian Ocean, the other in the Pacific. The sailors exploring the region for the first time on Christmas Day gave both islands the new name.
- * A banana doesn't turn black after peeling and immersing it in lemon juice.
- * During the Crusades, the King of France, Philip II, stopped anyone whose rank was below a knight, to practise playing dice.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

SAY IT IN ARABIC

AT THE BARBER'S

- I wish to have my hair cut. *Ureed ann akoss shaari.*
- How do you like to have it cut? *Kaifa tureed ann takessoh?*
- Not too short. *Laysa kaseeran jiddan.*
- Longer at the back than in front. *Minal khalf stval minal aman.*
- I want to be shaved too. *Ureed ann ashlik daqil.*
- Do you like to shampoo your hair? *Hal tawad an taghsil shaarak?*
- Not today. *Laysa basal yawn.*
- Do you like lotions? *Hal tobih al-mahaleet al-otriya?*
- I've tried many, but they haven't done me any good at all. *Leked jarrah al-kathir walakin naha lam tofidni it-haz.*
- May I trim your moustache? *Hal lee ann oshaz'ib shawarbak?*
- Yes, please. *Na'am min fed'lak.*

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

HUMOUR

- HE: "What would you do if somebody tries to kiss you?"
- SHE: "I scream and ask for help."
- HE: "Suppose I tried to do so now. How do you react?"
- SHE: "What a pity! I've got a hoarse voice."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

- Two pretty girls were roaming in a Broadway district. A young sailor was following them everywhere.
- One of the girls turned around and said in anger: "Hi, I'm sick." She gave two options: Either stop chasing us or bring back with you another sailor."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

- WIFE: "You always adhere to your points of view and never listen to anybody's advice."
- HUSBAND: "You've to thank God. Had I listened to the people's advice, I'd have never married you."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

- FRIEND: "Does your wife clean your suit every day?"
- HUSBAND: "No, she only cleans the pockets!"

ARABIC NAMES & THEIR MEANINGS

SAMIA (mas.): High, sublime, exalted, august. SAMIA (fem.):

The house that Jack built

By E. Yaghi

This is the house that Jack built all crooked and nice. Funny thing about it though, not one column stands in line with the one below it and to make matters worse, the last floor completely lacks any columns at all. Well, Jack's house certainly is an eyesore, not to mention that it resembles the ancient Tower of Babel in its endeavour to reach the heavens by having been built one crooked floor on top of the other until one can hardly see the end of it. It's kind of like the famous leaning Tower of Pisa with the exception that this famous landmark is currently undergoing repairs so that it won't collapse on innocent tourists.

Not too far away, on the mountain circle, those buildings which are situated on the circle's main streets had to not only been licensed but underwent thorough inspections to ensure that not one tiny little centimetre encroached on government or private property which is all fair and well and as it should be even though licensing for those buildings cost their owners up to and sometimes more than JD 10,000 and any centimetre that wasn't legally accounted for was thoroughly fined bringing them the cost of the license sometimes up to more than JD 15,000.

But, Jack's house escaped inspection somehow to the delight of Jack and his family. Perhaps because it was on a side street and inspectors may have trouble winding their paths to fine or even think to license such a disaster. Poor renters wear holes in their shoes just to find such a crooked house as Jack's. Yet, once in, many seem to experience claustrophobia and vertigo due to tight spaces and high narrow stairs that aim for the stars. Jack never puts a limit on how many floors he should build. Why should he? His whole building is illegal anyway so it's a free-for-all.

Hidden in secret alleyways and narrow streets to the blissful innocence of building inspectors, there are hundreds of houses like the one that Jack built. But to say the least, they are very dangerous and threatening to not only those inhabitants living within, but to all who happen to be in their vicinity. And certainly those laws that were passed for all should be meant and applied to all whether rich or not so rich and whether dwellings are situated on a main street or secluded byways.

Timothy Klemmer
dog star
Scarlett
self-taught
AFP photo

The predicament of the professional

Amateurism and professionalism in the writings of Edward W. Said

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Taking the long view, a reader of Edward W. Said will see just how many of the recurrent stress-points in his writing address the art of being general. Over and over again we find him talking about the virtues of the roving intelligence, the need for comparatist studies, the totality that is not "totalising," and the enquiry that is free.

Said complains that the obsession with "professionalism" — which he defines to be finding and keeping a knowledge slot in an overpopulated field — is apt to turn lively undergraduates into timid graduate students "afraid of stepping outside the consensus." He offers amateurism instead: "The original sense of loving things and doing them because you're curious about them, not because you have to."

The contention here is to make prominent the "professionalism versus amateurism" discourse in Said's writing. That is, "thinking of ones work as something one does for a living, between the hours of nine and five with one eye on the clock," and another on what is considered to be proper professional behaviour — not rocking the boat, not straying outside the accepted paradigms or limits, making oneself marketable and above all presentable, hence uncontroversial and unpolitical and objective "versus" the desire to be moved not by profit or reward but by love for and unquenchable interest in the larger picture, in making connections across lines and barriers, in refusing to be tied down to a speciality, in caring for ideas and values despite the restrictions of profession."

Said defines "specialisation" as "the limitation to a relatively narrow area of knowledge: Losing sight of anything outside one's immediate field: It kills the sense

of excitement and discovery. In the end, giving up to specialisation is laziness; doing what others tell you is always done because that is your speciality after all."

"Generalism," as a mode of intellectual conduct, is as much an epistemological conviction as a way of mattering publicly. Said believes in the amateur, the free-thinker interested in things for their own sake rather than for the pursuit of a career. Of course, the intellectual courts an opposite peril — "that of being so intellectually free, so rootless that he becomes nothing more than a meandering dilettante. An obvious danger is the intellectual becoming a kind of tourist through life, recirculating clichés."

In the fourth lecture of his *Reith Lectures* series, entitled *Professionals and Amateurs*, Said emphasises that "the amateur is someone who considers that to be a thinking and concerned member of a society one is entitled to raise moral issues at the heart of even the most technical and professionalised activity as it involves one's country and its mode of interacting with its citizens as well as other societies. The amateur can enter and transform the merely professional routine most of us go through into something much more lively and radical; instead of doing what one is supposed to do one can ask why one does it, who benefits from it, how can it reconnect with a personal project and original thought." (This lecture was broadcast on BBC's Radio 4 on July 14, 1993).

The problem for the modern intellectual is to try to deal with the impingements of modern professionalisation, not by pretending that they are not there or denying their influence, but by representing a different set of values and prerogatives. These, Said collects under the name of amateurism, literally, an activity that is fuelled by care and affection rather than by profit and selfish, narrow specialisation.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 13

8:30 *Flesh And Blood*

9:10 *Da Beat's On*

Mohannad Al Jazireh presents the latest on the pop music charts.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Movie Of The Week — Off Beat*

Starring: Judge Reinhold and Meg Tilly

Friday, Jan. 14

8:30 *Walter And Emily*

9:10 *Faces And Places*

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *The River Kings*

Sean enjoys his work on board Jack's boat, but it is off board where his life changes.

11:10 *Yes Minister*

Saturday, Jan. 15

8:30 *The Fanelli Boys*

Frank meets a beautiful woman and he tries to get her into The Sicily Knights Club, whose president is his brother Dominique.

9:10 *The Campbells*

Lady Helen's Love

An unexpected accident to a fellow traveller to Cana-

da compells Dr. James to discontinue his trip to treat the injured.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 Feature Film — *Relentless/Mind Of A Killer*

Starring: Carlo Ippolito, Claudia Christian and Tim Matheson

Pete Hellman is a psychiatrist whose career involves him in treating criminal women in jail. During his treatments his personal life gets caught in a web of conspiracies and killings.

Sunday, Jan. 16

8:30 *You Bet Your Life*

Bill Cosby hosts this entertaining show, where he gives away the grand prize of \$10,000 to the winning couple.

9:10 *Jordanesque*

In part three of this documentary, we look back into history and study the peoples that inhabited the lands in the past and the powers that governed them.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Island Son*

Fathers And Sons

Old Frank is admitted to hospital and Dr. Daniel approaches his son, Sam, to take a more serious look at his life.

9:10 *Mean and Machine*

Torch Song

11:10 *The Golden Palace*

Monday, Jan. 17

8:30 *The Torkelsons*

Educating Millicent

In appreciation of their mothers staying at home, and not finishing her high school studies, the Torkelson kids come up with a great idea.

9:10 *Thirtysomething*

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 Feature Film — *A Piano For Mrs. Gimino*

Starring: Bette Davis

Abandoned by her children, and after years spent in a home for the old, an old woman finds solace and happiness in the company of a clarinet player.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

8:30 *The Royal Family*

Talking Baseball

Nobody can beat the Grandfather in talking about baseball. He is not only an expert on the subject but was one of the very best players.

9:10 *Mean and Machine*

Torch Song

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *The Cape Rebel*

Sleuth is considering an escape plan from prison in order to attend to his sick wife, now in hospital.

11:10 *Night Court*

Here's To You Mrs. Robinson

Mrs. Mak Robinson seeks to receive the American citizenship to her yet unborn baby Judge Harry is called in.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

8:30 *Too Close For Comfort*

Henry finds out that it was not a good idea for him to have asked his children to attend the recording of his "will" on a video tape.

9:10 *Documentary — 2048 A.D.: The Ozone Alarm*

The world is facing the threat represented by the ozone hole that is steadily getting bigger and thinner. Many monitoring stations in the West are studying the causes and effects.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Day One*

Following Germany's surrender after World War II, America receives its secret files and plans on the nuclear bomb and accelerates its own experiments that killed and maimed thousands of innocent people.



tors Timothy Dalton and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer pose for cameras before voting starts on the new eight-houries Scarlett based on Alexandra Ripley's bestselling sequel to Gone With The Wind (AFP photo)

Cameras start rolling on Gone With The Wind sequel

By Jill Serjeant
Reuter

LONDON — The most tempestuous lovers in cinema history got together again as filming started on the long-awaited sequel to *Gone With The Wind*.

But the two British actors stepping into the shoes of Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler were keeping any passionate clinches for the screen — and even then their love scenes are likely to be toned down for family television audiences.

"It is a very sexual relationship so we do have sex scenes. They are updated for a 1990s audience but there are limitations because of the television audience," said Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, the English actress who plays a thirty-something Scarlett battling to restore her reputation.

Ms. Whalley-Kilmer and the current James Bond star Timothy Dalton confessed to some trepidation about following in the footsteps of Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable for what producers say is the most expensive ever television mini-series.

"I was nervous but it's a wonderful role and I would be crazy if I didn't do it," Ms. Whalley-Kilmer, 31, told a news conference during a break in rehearsals.

"I'm not being asked to copy Vivien Leigh who is incidentally one of my idols — I think she's just glorious," added the actress, best known for playing Christine Keeler in the 1989 film *Scandal* about a call girl who brought down a British government minister in the 1963 Profumo sex scandal.

Dalton, sporting a butler-type moustache, added: "It is quite task but we've got a damn good script. I don't

want to copy Gable."

The \$40-million eight-hour series *Scarlett*, based on the best-selling sequel written by Alexandra Ripley, will be filmed in Britain, Ireland and the United States and is set to hit television screens in 40 nations in November 1994.

The relatively unknown Whalley-Kilmer, with her velvety brown eyes, beat Julia Roberts, Demi Moore and Nicole Kidman to win the part.

Hollywood actress Ann-Margret plays a local madam. British veteran John Gielgud plays Scarlett's grandfather as the southern Belle returns to Ireland to look for her roots and win back the man who stormed out with the line: "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn."

Executive producer Robert Halmi defended his decision to resolve one of

the most famous screen cliff-hangers.

"This is not a remake of *Gone With The Wind*. It ended with the quote 'tomorrow is another day' — I'm doing tomorrow," he said.

"*Gone With The Wind* was an unsolved ending and we've resolved it. These two people will finally get together after eight hours of television.

Halmi, head of an international consortium grouping U.S., German and Italian television companies, said he had already spent as much money as original producer David Selznick had in making the 1939 film before the first day's shooting had begun.

"His original budget was \$2 million but he went over and spent \$4 million. I have already spent that," Halmi said.



Tom Hanks (right) and Robert Loggia in a scene from the movie Big

Tom Hanks takes giant acting leap in latest role

By Jim Loney
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Tom Hanks, the comedic actor with the crooked grin who played the man-child in *Big*, the mermaid-lover in *Splash* and the shy widower in *Sleepless In Seattle*, dances cheek-to-cheek with a male lover in his latest film.

Radical image change? Hanks, the childish character who seemed so in-character as boy-in-a-man's body in *Big* (1988) — a role for which he won his first Oscar nomination — takes a giant leap as a dramatic actor in *Philadelphia*, the fictional tale of a gay lawyer who sues his former employer for firing him because he has AIDS.

Philadelphia, the \$25 million Tri-Star Production that represents Hollywood's first real attempt to address the AIDS crisis, made its limited debut in Los Angeles, New York and Toronto on Dec. 22 and hits screens nationwide on Jan. 14.

Movie-goers accustomed to seeing Hanks gazing wistfully at Meg Ryan in *Sleepless* or cuddling with Darryl Hannah in *Splash* may be in for a sharp surprise as his character, Andrew Beckett, shares a kiss or slow-dances with long-time lover Miguel, played by Antonio Banderas.

"That's probably going to make people in Dubuque (Iowa) go 'oh, no, they're dancing together, oh my God,'" Hanks says with a chuckle.

Philadelphia, directed by Jonathan (Silence Of The Lambs) Demme and written by Ron Nyswaner, is a thoughtful exploration of the prejudices surrounding the AIDS epidemic wrapped around one man's battle against the injustice of a wrongful dismissal because of his disease.

American audiences in 1993 particularly warmed to three foreign films that sensually depicted adulterous relationships — *The Piano*, from Australia, *Like Water For Chocolate* from Mexico, and *Farewell My Concubine* from China.

Original scripts, although not at all dominant in Hollywood this past year, frequently attracted audiences as well. Preeminent among them was *Philadelphia*, written by Ron Nyswaner and directed by Jonathan Demme. It starred Tom Hanks as an attorney who, upon announcing that he has contracted AIDS, is dismissed by his firm — which he promptly sues. Denzel Washington and Jason Robards were co-stars. The film, in which the just divorced Williams disguises himself as a nanny in order to visit his children, was the seventh movie of the year to earn over \$100 million.

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ton), an ambulance-chasing attorney who gets the film's funny lines, would have been a natural for him. But when he read the script, he wanted to be Andrew Beckett.

"I am a selfish actor, and to be able to work with Jonathan and Denzel in this movie that obviously is going to be perceived as some sort of an event... I wanted to have the best part in it," he said.

For Hanks, it was a chance to confront some of his own preconceptions about AIDS and its victims as well as to take on a new challenge as an actor.

He admits to a "strange, mercenary kind of feeling" through his research for the role, which included long discussions with gay men suffering with AIDS.

"This wasn't just learning how to ride a horse because I'm gonna play a cowboy. This was something substantially different," he said. "It's a very, very curious position to find oneself in. It was almost a peace that I had to make individually with the whole process."

Hanks goes through a remarkable metamorphosis during the movie, from a robust legal eagle to a gaunt, grey-haired AIDS sufferer with lesions on his face and body who collapses during one climactic moment. He lost 35 pounds (16 kg) for the transformation.

Hanks says although he's not sure he suffered from "survivor's guilt" — the frequent feeling of gay men who have lost loved ones to AIDS and yet are not themselves afflicted — he admits to struggling with the fantasy/reality of the movie-making. He was able to wash off the makeup.

"I'd come out of the shower in the morning and I'd have this shaved head and I'd see my pelvic bone sticking out," he recalls. "And I thought, 'I'm knocking myself out trying to get this way and there's guys, men and women, who can't stop this from happening to them right now.'"

"It's a surreal situation to be in."

Did Hanks fear the image of gay AIDS sufferer would stick — and perhaps cost him future roles?

"I don't think there's any stigma one way or the other. It's not a big deal. And if it is to somebody, well, they can go screw themselves," he said.

And of the intimate moments with Antonio Banderas?

"Let me tell you. To be able to dance with Antonio Banderas, I am the envy of. I understand, 95 per cent of the women in the world... and about 22 per cent of the men," he said, laughing.

"I was getting slaps on the back from both sides."

Barbra Streisand returns to public concert after 27 years

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — If she red tomorrow and never wed her face again, d only become moreous. There would be ours about sightings, up about her private talk about comeback ms rivaling the excitement of all those supposed reunions.

ut don't worry: Barbra Streisand has never really intended to be alone. i a business notoriousuperlatives; no one's ex-her: Oscar, Emmy, Grammy, Golden Globe. Not to mention satar, legend, icon. She 37 gold albums, 21 platinum and seven multiplatinum.

ut the ambition and psonism that began in aoklyn flat remains unfor the 51-year-old er-actress-director. ster 27 years of refrain from concert appearane in public, she pered Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 he 15,000-seat Grandien Theatre of the New M Grand in Las Vegas. payment has been esti-

mated at as much as \$10 million per night.

This month she donated her 15-acre (6-hectare) Malibu showplace, valued at \$15 million, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The conservation group plans to use the property and its five houses as an environmental research complex.

Her art-deco objects, collected lovingly for 30 years and valued at \$4 million, will be auctioned at Christie's in New York on March 3-4. She explained on a segment of TV's "20/20": "I think I'm going through a period of shedding, of letting go of a lot of things: Fears, houses, objects, material possessions."

This year Streisand has shed her reclusive habits, making appearances for women candidates for U.S. senator from California. President Bill Clinton's inauguration, AIDS projects Los Angeles and David Dinkins' unsuccessful campaign for re-election as New York City mayor. She even turned up at Wimbledon to root for new tennis friend Andre Agassi. (He lost.)

Her agreement to sing in Las Vegas amazed many

longtime Streisand watchers, who believed she would never again face a public audience.

Two years ago she told the Associated Press: "I don't really like performing. Only when I was 18-19 years old did I like it. After that I got real scared, shy. I just didn't feel good anymore. I got a notion in my head that I would forget the words. And then I forgot the words. I wasn't enjoying it. It was too frightening for me."

Close friends believe she also was concerned for her personal safety. A biography, *Her Name Is Barbra* by Randall Riese, claims the singer received a death threat before her historic concert in New York's Central Park in 1967.

He quotes the TV show's director, Bob Scheerer: "She was terrified that the spotlight would make her a target for a crazy in the audience."

Two weeks later, Riese says, a possible assailant with a .45 was arrested before a Streisand concert at the Hollywood Bowl. Her fears may have been reinforced by the 1980 assassination of John Lennon.

Streisand's return to the stage has been awaited with anticipation. She has been invited to perform at the Grammys, the Academy Awards and the Super Bowl.

She was born Barbara Joan Streisand in Brooklyn on April 24, 1942. She never knew her father, a high school teacher who died of a cerebral hemorrhage at 35 when his daughter was 19 months old. Her mother married a salesman who repeatedly berated Barbara as ugly and untalented. In his book, Riese quotes a former neighbour who said the stepfather hit the girl "at least once or twice."

Tha t, prompted Streisand's publicist, Dick Guttmann, to reply that although she was "the object" of an abusive person, he "never physically abused her."

In a 1964 interview with the AP, Streisand recalled her childhood:

"I never took part in school activities or anything. I was never asked out to any of the proms, and I never had a date for New Year's Eve. I was pretty much a loner. I never needed anyone, really."

She defied her stepfather and others who found her homely. She declared herself beautiful, dressed in second-hand tacky and shortened her name "I don't care what you write



Barbra Streisand

about me," she later told interviewers. "just be sure you spell my name wrong."

She began singing at amateur nights, dramatising every song "I'm an actress who sings."

Former agent Irvin Arthur remembers first hearing Streisand at a Greenwich Village joint, The Lion, where she had won an amateur contest. "I heard a voice that was unique and different; it sent thrills up my spine. She sang Happy Days as no one had ever heard it before, and he persuaded his agency to sign her.

Philadelphia, the \$25 million Tri-Star Production that represents Hollywood's first real attempt to address the AIDS crisis, made its limited debut in Los Angeles, New York and Toronto on Dec. 22 and hits screens nationwide on Jan. 14.

Movie-goers accustomed to seeing Hanks gazing wistfully at Meg Ryan in *Sleepless* or cuddling with Darryl Hannah in *Splash* may be in for a sharp surprise as his character, Andrew Beckett, shares a kiss or slow-dances with long-time lover Miguel, played by Antonio Banderas.

"That's probably going to make people in Dubuque (Iowa) go 'oh, no, they're dancing together, oh my God,'" Hanks says with a chuckle.

Philadelphia, directed by Jonathan (Silence Of The Lambs) Demme and written by Ron Nyswaner, is a thoughtful exploration of the prejudices surrounding the AIDS epidemic wrapped around one man's battle against the injustice of a wrongful dismissal because of his disease.

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Hollywood turns to fiction for 1993 material

Michael J. Bandler

SHINGTOM — Hollywood turned to the pages of some of the most fully used, and most meaningful, movies of 1993. Near the end of the year, creative screenwriters directors also explored number of gritty, sombernes — the Holocaust, AIDS pandemic, and, again, Vietnam — that not normal fare for the day season.

Spielberg, director of such past hit films as *Jurassic Park*, an enture centering on the life of the dinosaur era in modern age, has in less than six months produced highest gross revenues, worldwide, in the history of industry. The film was pted from the novel of t name by Michael Chilton.

the second Spielbergie, Schindler's List, resed at year's end, was a rk of art and history drawn from the book writ by Thomas Keneally, an stralian.

Keneally's novel moving detailed events in the life of actual German Nazi apathiser, Oskar Schindler businessman, woma-

niser and, eventually, shrewd saviour of more than 1,000 imperiled people who, in the 1940's, eluded certain death at the extermination camp in Auschwitz, Poland. Screenwriter Steven Zaillian's script hewed closely to the original story, and the film was shot in black and white to add an image of authenticity. Spielberg wrestled with the arduous project for more than a decade before the movie, starring Liam Neeson and Ben Kingsley, opened to widespread

success. The film, costarring Daniel Day-Lewis and Michelle Pfeiffer, the film radiated as it reflected the conduct and the trapings of New York City's high society of the 1870s. The film was a major departure for Spielberg, whose work often has focused on the contemporary Italian-American community in New York.

Robert Altman, who depicted alienation and black humour in such films as *Nashville*, and *M-A-S-H*, turned to the fiction of Raymond Carver for his film *Short Cuts*. Drawing on nine Carver stories and

novels — also found their way onto the screen in 1993. In addition to his *Jurassic Park*, Crichton's *Eaten By a Python* and *Shadowlands* (British writer Branagh's Shakespearean romp), and also played a barrister in *In The Name Of The Father*. Washington appeared in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Hanks, the AIDS-plagued attorney in *Philadelphia*, starred in one of the year's most blissful comedies, *Sleepless In Seattle*, playing a widower who finds a new romance through the medium of a radio talk programme.

Not to be overlooked is *Mrs. Doubtfire*, a blockbuster comedy released late in the year starring Robin Williams. The film, in which the just divorced Williams disguises himself as a nanny in order to visit his children, was the seventh movie of the year to earn over \$100 million.

Now Hollywood is preparing its 1994 roster. Audiences will have a choice of screen adaptations of Isabel Allende's *The House Of The Spirits*, Tom Robbins' *Even Cowgirls Get The Blues*, and movies drawn from works by Grisham and Crichton, among other popular novelists. Costner, Hopkins, Paul Newman and Meryl Streep

Peace cannot be piecemeal, its fruits must be distributed equitably; serious and substantive discussions with neighbours can only mark areas of future cooperation; a balanced relationship with no disparities among the region's economies should be established

Following is the full text of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's speech at the conference on economic and business implications of the Arab-Israel peace process, organised by the Middle East Economic Digest at Queen Elizabeth Centre, Westminster, London, on Jan. 10, 1994.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honour to deliver the keynote address to the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) conference on the economics of peace in the Middle East. With so many distinguished thinkers on this subject gathered together today, I feel that we cannot but make significant progress in the understanding of this complex area. I would like to set the tone by presenting an approach that could help achieve a viable framework for the areas to be discussed in the three other sessions today: the future of the Palestinian economy, the reconstruction challenge, and financing the peace.

As all those involved with MEED are aware, the entire region has been shattered by decades of conflict. While the Middle East is potentially self-sustaining in every respect, the Arab-Israeli conflict has left the economies of the region insular in orientation and stunted in development. Crippled by debt and the demands of massive military expenditure, not one of the countries of the region — including Israel — could at present claim to be self-supporting in any meaningful way. Only peace can redeem this state of affairs.

The Middle East peace process has weathered changes of administration in Israel and the United States; it has survived political and military crises, and its negotiations have come through periods of difficulty to provide fresh hope. If the process is currently encountering a number of technical obstacles, it has also demonstrated unprecedented resilience. Jordan believes that this opportunity to resolve the conflict cannot be missed. The no-war, no-peace status that holds us in its thrall has benefited none of the

parties. The accumulation of weapons in the region, particularly since the second Gulf war, means that the consequences of future war are unthinkable. Peace is therefore the only viable path, and we in Jordan are pledged to do all in our power to pursue that path.

The mutual recognition of the PLO and Israel last autumn was a significant breakthrough in Arab-Israeli relations. The Conference to Support Middle East peace, held in Washington last October, provided guarantees of support and assistance from the international community to the Palestinians, to help translate the promise of peace into tangible reality. The Jordanian-Israeli common agenda was likewise a bold step on the road to peace. However, the substance of peace is infinitely more complex than its rhetoric.

Peace-making has entered a new phase which requires an extensive investment in detail and technicalities. Soundbite diplomacy is no substitute for substantive negotiation.

Jordan is engaged in serious and substantive discussions with its neighbours, with the aim of delineating areas of future cooperation in all spheres.

We have just agreed with the Palestinians a cooperation agreement at the official bilateral level, at the private sector level, and at the Arab and international levels. We will explore the details of such fields as money and banking, trade, human resources development, tourism, investment promotion, taxation, health, agriculture, infrastructure: not the stuff of headlines, but the stuff of which true peace is made.

For despite the 1988 severance of administrative links, the geographic, historic and demographic ties between Jordan and Palestine endure. Such factors lie behind our decision to reopen branches of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories and to encourage the Jordanian private sector to invest in the West Bank and Gaza: for these are designed to help the nascent Palestinian economy in its development.

House debates draft budget

(Continued from page 1)

to pay to serve political purposes in the West Bank ... but there is no need for (such funds now) since the budget allocates JD 6.5 million for the Awqaf (there)."

Deputies also demanded that the government include in the budget allocations for public institutions so that the House could monitor their financial performance.

Other deputies, however, praised the budget for aiming at attaining self-sufficiency and not resorting to borrowing.

Despite the sometimes harsh criticism of the budget, majority of deputies are expected to endorse it when a vote is taken Saturday or Sunday.

Many deputies have indicated support for the recommendations of the Finance Committee, which asked them to approve the budget after introducing minor changes, mainly a reduction in current expenditure.

Israel, PLO stuck on security issues

(Continued from page 1)

Because of the deadlock on security issues, the two sides failed to meet the Dec. 13 date for the start of an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, as laid down by the accord they signed in Washington.

The latest round of autonomy negotiations was to close late Wednesday, rather than Thursday night, to allow Gen. Shahak to attend the funeral of General Tamari.

Two or three delegates from each side were expected to stay on Thursday to draft the results of the talks.

Israel argues that the size of Jericho should not be critical since in the second stage of self-rule, to be negotiated soon after implementation of the Gaza-Jericho stage, the Palestinians are to receive much of the rest of the West Bank anyway.

Committee member Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said the panel "understood all the circumstances under which the policies were made and the draft budget engineered."

He said the committee was willing to cooperate with the government to implement the recommendations it has made in order to serve the country and consolidate the principle of cooperation between the executive and the legislative authorities.

In a political speech that embodied most of the policy adjustment demanded by other lawmakers, Mr. Kabariti called for an economic reform that is void of slogans and which derives from experience and practice.

Thirty-two more deputies are still to take the floor before the government responds to the deputies' remarks and a vote is taken, bringing to 65 the total number of deputies who would have spoken at the House's second marathon session since it convened on Nov. 23.

The Royal Society For The Conservation of Nature - Jordan

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature is the only non-governmental organisation in Jordan responsible for protecting wildlife. It has established an international reputation for its conservation work.

In connection with its rapidly expanding work load, the Society is seeking suitably experienced and/or qualified people to fill the following vacancies:

I- HEAD OF PUBLIC AWARENESS

A well motivated, enthusiastic person is required to manage and develop the work of the recently formed Public Awareness Section. This section promotes the vital work of the RSCN across all sections of Jordanian Society. Much of the work is concerned with developing educational programmes for schools.

The successful candidate will have qualifications and/or experience in education or interpretation and in the management of people. Good communication skills and a commitment to wildlife conservation are essential. He or she must also speak and write fluent English.

II- HEAD OF FUNDRAISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

This newly created and very important job needs someone with excellent presentation and communication skills to manage and direct a small team of staff involved in all aspects of fundraising, marketing and public relations.

Relevant qualifications and experience in fundraising or marketing are essential. The ability to manage and co-ordinate staff and to speak and write fluently in English are also important. A genuine interest in wildlife conservation will be an advantage.

III- QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

Candidates should have a degree in accountancy and be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) an ability to speak & write English fluently is also essential.

For more information contact administration office at: RSCN Q.H. 2nd floor of Civil Service Consumption/ El-Jubieha P.O. Box 6354

Closing date for applications the 20th of January
Candidate should bring C.V. and original documents

On the Jordanian-Israeli track, the Jordanian-Israeli-American economic committee will provide a valuable forum to address all aspects of human resource development, trade, finance, economic and monetary policy between Jordan and Israel. We now look forward to discussing other substantive issues, such as water, boundaries and refugees, on the basis of international law.

conflict would demand appropriate measures to fashion a balanced relationship in a graduated manner. The examples of Spain and Portugal within the EU bear consideration in this regard. This is particularly vital as the Israeli economy has many restrictive features and is heavily subsidised. Given a negotiated peace, the complete removal of these features on both sides would be possible; but at the moment, when Israeli limits on our export to the occupied territories closely resemble boycott provisions, talk of lifting the Arab embargo is premature.

A GATT-EU approach could be the best way to deal with the economic legacies of the conflict. Indeed, Jordan has decided to apply for membership of GATT; for we believe that in seeking to evolve a healthy trade and investment regime, the experience of other countries — such as the Zone Franca arrangements between Geneva and France — will be invaluable. The European Commission recently approved a communication on "Future Relations and Cooperation Between the Community and the Middle East," illustrating the importance of experience in other parts of the world. The communication stresses the need for a common regional vision as a basis for cooperation in the Middle East. It states:

"Partnership requires balanced economic development. If cooperation is to succeed it is essential to reduce excessive disparities in income levels between potential partners in the region." It adds that: "Cooperation should go in two directions: the pooling of

common capacities and the tackling of common problems ... implying, at some stage, freedom of movement for goods, services, capital and labour."

If one thing is clear at this point, it is that peace cannot be piecemeal. All the peoples of the region have suffered through the conflict; and just as all have their part to play in its rebuilding and renewal, so must its fruits be distributed equitably.

For it should never be forgotten that peace is ultimately not in the hands of governments, but of individuals; and unless peace can be made attractive to the man on the street, the best efforts of negotiators will come to nought.

Jordan, nearest to the core of the conflict, has shouldered an enormous human load. We have given shelter to three waves of displaced Palestinians. These refugees — about 1.7 million individuals — account today for one third of Jordan's population. The demographic strain on my country is vast; and the conflict has also had consequences in terms of debt. We are grateful for President Clinton's public commitment on the part of the United States to debt relief for Jordan, as our \$7bn. debt overhang is a real obstacle to the progressive policies which we wish to adopt. We seek to attract foreign investment, to upgrade infrastructure and to participate fully in regional projects. Jordan is committed to the peace process, to democratisation and economic liberalisation, to human rights, sustainable development and regional cooperation. But if we are to promote these policies effectively, exceptional efforts

will be needed in respect of our debt burden.

Ladies and gentlemen:

International investment in development projects that serve the region and its peoples is vital. It is equally important that such projects be founded upon sound concepts, and that they receive the support of international financial institutions, governments and multinational corporations alike. A basketing approach, covering human cooperation, resource cooperation and security, must be evolved. Peace requires an enduring structure that can tackle the 'over-arching' problems of economies of the region: disparities created by conflict, over-extended public sectors, addiction to oil on the one hand and oil revenues on the other. An economic framework is needed to deal with such problems. This must in turn be backed up by wide-ranging security and cooperation arrangements at the regional level, involving all players. The multilateral component of the peace process provides a possible framework for this enterprise.

Given such arrangements, the reconstruction of the Middle East could proceed apace. In terms of economic development, a free-trade zone across the Middle East would be the ultimate goal. Arrangements for a Middle East Free Trade Agreement — a MEFTA along the lines of NAFTA — would allow the region to play a more creative role in the world economy. In aspiring to this goal, it will be necessary to consider the freedom of movement of all factors of production: labour, goods, capital and services. In this context, a dialogue on the rights of migrant labour emerges as a vital prerequisite: for the existence of surplus labour in the north, and capital in the south, immediately suggests a viable regional trade regime.

Such a development would provide an impetus for a new relationship of hope in the Middle East. Many other instruments would back this up.

First and foremost, there needs to be a commitment to arms control from the purchasers and suppliers of weaponry.

Secondly, regional bodies and charters will help ensure equity in resource-related areas such as energy and water; while incentives for local sustainable development programmes can support policies that guarantee a future for all. Finally, a regional debt sinking fund, and

a bank for Middle East reconstruction and development, will promote stable and open financial practices, improving the chances for the region to play a dynamic part in the world economy.

For many of the problems of the Middle East stem from the fact that the climate of conflict has forced the diversion of funds away from long-term development and into the military. Generations have grown up in a region which has prioritised military security above health or education. In a Middle East stabilised by a negotiated peace, and upheld by structures of collective security and cooperation, these funds could at last be channelled into building the social and economic foundations of peace, which are the surest foundations of all.

In all these areas, the experience and assistance of the international community of nations, and the international business community, will be indispensable to the Middle East. I am sure that conferences of this sort will help to deepen international understanding of the tasks at hand. I would like to thank the organisers for all their efforts; and I would like to thank you all for your attention.

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The United Nations Children's Fund, seeks qualified Jordanian candidates for the following position:

INFORMATION ASSISTANT - GS6

Duty Station: Amman - Jordan

Under the supervision of the Chief of External Relations assists in research and documentation of the External Relations' Section of UNICEF Regional Office by handling the promotion and distribution of communication materials to field and country offices; supervises the design, and follows-up with printers quality and punctuality of Arabic, English and French publications; is responsible for the audio visual library and the cataloguing of photos, slides, films and videos and assists in other activities of the External Relations' Section.

Minimum qualifications:

First University Degree in Arts, Public Relations or Communications.

Minimum five years working experience, of which 2-3 years in the relevant work area.

Fluency in written and spoken English and Arabic. French is an asset.

Computer skills are essential and Desktop publishing skill in particular is an added asset.

Please send detailed resume, in English, quoting reference GS/94-01 to:

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Qualified women are encouraged to apply. Applications for this position must be received not later than 22 January 1994.

Acknowledgement will only be sent to short-listed candidates under serious consideration.

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Economy

Clinton calls for world action on unemployment

BRUSSELS (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton Tuesday called for global action to create jobs.

"We must put jobs at the centre of our economic agenda," he said after a 90-minute meeting with European Commission President Jacques Delors and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, the current president of the European Union.

"We must compete not retreat... our trade relations are a source of strength, a source of prosperity," he said, adding that last month's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade deal to cut global protectionism would create millions of jobs by the end of the century.

Mr. Clinton stressed the importance of relations between the 12-nation EC and the United States but said they could not on their own create the conditions necessary for economic growth.

"We think it is clearly time for the other great economic power, Japan, to join us in this effort to open markets," he said. "The renewal of each of the economies will benefit all of them."

But he warned that job

USAID is fighting to preserve its foreign aid programmes

WASHINGTON (USAID) — The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is fighting to preserve its foreign aid programmes despite budgetary pressures, according to USAID Administrator J. Brian Atwood.

"We have done better than expected in a difficult year," Mr. Atwood said on Worldnet — USAID's interactive television network. He explained that the Clinton Administration is caught between the "conflicting goals" of promoting sustainable development in the Third World while committing itself to cut the national budget deficit.

Mr. Atwood and Deputy Administrator Carol Lancaster were answering questions from USAID mission directors in Nairobi, Pretoria, Amman and New Delhi.

Both officials assured their field directors that the administration was committed to the concept of sustainable development as the foundation of the redefined 1961 Foreign Assistance Act.

"Cold war legislation" is now being pruned from the 1961 Act to allow greater flexibility in a post-Cold War era, the officials said.

"We don't want to put strictures" on the use of aid in the

field, Ms. Lancaster said.

Mr. Atwood said sustainable development is increasingly being looked at by Clinton Administration officials as "crisis prevention." He said if the United States did not invest in such prevention it would have to spend much more money later in "disaster aid."

He and Ms. Lancaster assured the African directors that long-term development aid to their region would continue. An African expert, Ms. Lancaster said she has revised her previous opinions on USAID's ability to support long-term African development, and said that "we are there for the long haul."

Mr. Atwood reiterated that the recent decision to phase out 21 USAID country missions over a three-year period reflected consensus that the United States can no longer work with "failed states" — countries that have not profitably utilized U.S. aid for their own economic development.

After the phasout, USAID will have 50 to 60 full-scale sustainable development missions, 12 humanitarian, food and disaster relief stations, 10 global offices with no field missions, and several regional offices to manage assistance to small countries.

African franc zone devalues CFA by 50 per cent

DAKAR (Agencies) — The 14 countries that make up the West African franc zone bowed to pressure from the IMF and France Tuesday and agreed to devalue the CFA franc by 50 per cent.

The decision was made behind closed doors at a special conference of 10 heads of state, three prime ministers and a finance minister and was officially announced late Tuesday, after having been agreed in principle Monday.

The CFA franc, the common currency unit of former French colonies in West Africa, has been guaranteed by France since 1948. Before the devaluation, its value was 50 CFA francs to the French unit.

A statement published here said that from midnight Jan. 12, one hundred 100 CFA francs and 75 Comoran francs would be worth one French franc.

In Paris, a joint statement by the presidency and the prime minister's office said France would back efforts by CFA countries to adjust their economies, pledging "new measures of debt cancellation and reduction."

The statement said France remained "resolutely and tangibly attached to the franc zone and to its special ties with its partners."

It praised the 14 leaders for the courage they had shown, saying it would propose immediate unilateral measures to the French parliament to offset the economic and social consequences which the African nations fear will result from the devaluation.

"All debts from loans for development aid will be cancelled for the poorest countries. Those countries with an average income will have half their development aid debts cancelled," the statement pointed out.

France will provide significant help to cover the financial needs of its partners in the franc zone in the form of programmes to be agreed on

with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the French statement said.

But delegates here for the summit barely disguised their disappointment.

Some participants accused France — which only three months ago had promised it would never "abandon Africa" — of "treason."

In the end they were forced to agree to the devaluation after the IMF refused to provide additional loans, on grounds that the CFA was overvalued, and France determined it should no longer bail out its former colonies.

Certain countries now fear their regimes could be destabilized by devaluation, which will rebuilt in a sharp rise in the cost of imported products — particularly basic necessities — and affect their poorest citizens.

Experts also believe that given weaker demand, West African exports — despite devaluation — will not attract a larger share of international markets.

Some of the 14 nations believed they would be able to persuade France not to lend its support to the IMF, and were ill-prepared for the subsequent financial haggling they were then forced into.

Although no specific amount of aid to offset the effects of devaluation was mentioned late Tuesday, one Western source said earlier in Dakar it might involve sums in the order of \$2 billion.

The countries making up the franc zone are Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur told a cabinet meeting Wednesday in Paris that France had "particular responsibilities" in the renegotiations of the debt of the CFA zone countries. French government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy said.

Mr. Camdessus said the measures should improve the economic performance of the countries markedly. It would allow the CFA franc zone countries to join the developing countries of Latin America and Asia on the path of sustainable economic growth.

Mr. Camdessus followed up

Wednesday at a news conference, saying that the organization would support the countries with nine billion to 10 billion francs (\$1.5 billion to

\$1.6 billion).

That would begin with loans from the IMF's so-called standby facility, which are the most rapid to negotiate, Mr. Camdessus said. The money could be distributed this year.

The IMF and World Bank will also help the countries grapple with sudden price hikes in key imports, such as oil, rice, cooking oil and flour, Mr. Camdessus said.

The main aim, Mr. Camdessus said, should be to ensure that medium-term growth won't be hindered by the sudden doubling in debt brought on by the devaluation.

"If we don't succeed in promoting growth, then there will be social disorder and massive emigration," Mr. Camdessus warned.

The comments reflected fears in France and other European countries about massive migrations as Africa's population explodes and Europe's economy shrinks.

The devaluations marked a significant shift in France's attitude towards its former colonies. Paris had told African leaders that it no longer has the resources to indefinitely write off their budget deficits.

Mr. Camdessus did not provide details on how much money each of the African states would receive. He stressed that assistance would be decided country by country.

The poorest countries will generally be eligible for so-called "Trinidad terms" when they negotiate with the Paris Club of creditor countries, Mr. Camdessus said.

The Trinidad terms go beyond traditional reschedulings and allow for up to a 50 per cent reduction in a country's stock of debt.

West Africans expressed anger and alarm Wednesday at being "let down" by France over the devaluation of their CFA franc.

From Senegal to Gabon, from Benin to Ivory Coast, academics, union leaders and several newspapers warned of

the harmful social impact of the 50 per cent devaluation of their common currency, which has been pegged to the French franc since 1948.

In Cotonou, the secretary general of Benin's main labour federation, Pascal Todjouin, said that structural adjustment

programmes had already "led us into enormous difficulties."

"Now it's the currency that's under attack," he added. "If our leaders had run our economies realistically, we wouldn't be at this point. The main target of this move are the workers and youth."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JANUARY 13, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Considerable activity in motion day hours, but then be most careful driving home or going out socially tonight.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) During morning you find better ways of becoming more popular and get your wishes more easily as well. Tonight don't think that anything you want can be bought, be economical instead.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study quietly into whatever is puzzling during morning hours. Take care later avoid getting into arguments with others, curb your temper.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are able to gain personal ambitions during the morning if you go to the right people, sources. Don't feel sorry for yourself tonight because you have work to do, get it done.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever is connected with re-creation can be handled very well during the morning. Be sure you improve home conditions tonight and then relax there in perfect harmony and comfort.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Try to get into the good graces of a family tie this morning who has been almost inimical. However, don't go out tonight be extravagant out of sheer generosity where pleasure is concerned.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get shopping done that is necessary, then study your paper and other fine printed media for the new ideas you require at this time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Follow your hunches in gaining the esteem of authorities who can be of infinite help to you. Take care later you do not waste time foolishly or follow an overly glamorous individual.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JANUARY 14, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

This is a day when you may well want to change existing plans for others with an illusionary new appeal but it would prove much wiser not to discard completely old plans of the past. Get out this evening and have a good time.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't feel that ideas of higher-ups would take too much of your time. Listen carefully to them for later use. Follow through with planned tasks and then be off for fun tonight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Steer clear of arguments with kin who is out of sorts and get work done at home. Then carry through with business transactions that give you greater security in the future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Put aside that dull duty you had planned and get busy on important reports and letters that are expected of you for you to achieve great success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Instead of thinking about recreations for the evening, get busy following practical ideas given you by men/women in business.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Curb your temper and control your emotions early this morning so that you will be poised and calm for the benefits and fine opportunities that come your way later in the day.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Morning may be filled with irritating personalities, but then the afternoon runs smoothly and you accomplish a great deal with associates who are compatible.

THE Daily Crossword

by Joel Davajan

ACROSS

1 Shooting marbles

5 Utah

10 Currency

14 Imitate

15 Marlin garnish

16 Nelson Arthur

17 Dorothy's way

20 Chosen one

21 Vitality

22 Nuremberg

23 Mine entrance

24 Ring of color

27 Gash

28 Short, letters

31 Children's disease

32 Castle or Pott's

33 Close

34 Hobo-Crosby

37 News

38 Bowling alley

39 Analyze critically

41 Multitude

42 Music

43 Clothing

44 Indonesian

45 Spanish inn

48 Implode

52 Facing disaster

54 Hedgehog

55 Old town

57 Hand kn.

58 Clavicles

59 Whistlers

60 Agate

61 Ms. Lamarr

62 Forest-dwelling cat

63 Drawing

64 Dress style

65 "I...—ing d'un Faune"

66 Household

67 Happiness

68 Musical

69 Combination

70 Communion

71 Cloth carrier

72 Navigate

73 Despots

74 Battlements and

75 Greco

76 NASP

77 Mantle

78 Agate

79 Mystery

80 Fauna

81 Grotto

82 Glitter

83 Dazzle

EMI to watch costs carefully, new president says

FRANKFURT (R) — The European Monetary Institute (EMI), forerunner of a future European central bank, held its inaugural meeting in Frankfurt's historic City Hall Tuesday, ushering in a new European financial era.

Its president, Alexandre Lamfalussy, made clear that the EMI was going to be very cost-conscious.

A major row broke out last year over extravagant expendi-

ture by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the agency promoting economic development in Eastern Europe, which had lavish offices in London.

Mr. Lamfalussy also said that the EMI faced a hard task of fostering European monetary cooperation while decision-making remained firmly with individual central banks.

He said the EMI had a very clear separate mandate to pre-

pare the ground for the creation of a central bank system. The EMI had to work out exactly what instruments the future central bank would use. However, he was very positive about the progress that had been made towards integrating European economies over the last five years and said developments on European currency markets in the last few months had been remarkable.

In an essentially symbolic first meeting in the City Hall in Frankfurt — the EMI has not yet found permanent offices — the EMI had dealt largely with organisational matters.

Tuesday's meeting, in addition to appointing Irish central bank governor Maurice Doyle as vice-president of the EMI, had broadly agreed on the organisational structure for the EMI and on pay-scales for key officials.

Mr. Lamfalussy said no deci-

sion had been made on a site for the EMI. He had looked at two office blocks. He was still receiving offers and these would be considered. He stressed: "I want to be very cost-conscious. I want the maximum cost-benefit ratio."

Frankfurt was chosen as the site for the EMI and a future central bank after a hotly-contested battle between Germany's financial capital and

London.

Some critics of the Frankfurt decision worried the EMI could come under excessive influence of the powerful German Bundesbank, but Mr. Lamfalussy made clear he would not permit this.

"I shall not accept a greater influence from the Bundesbank when we are here than if I had been sitting on top of a mountain somewhere else," he said.

Mr. Lamfalussy said it was likely that monetary union would be achieved by 1997 and

he declined to speculate on whether this would be a common currency for some countries by 1999.

But he was confident a common currency would ultimately be created. "I believe there will be a common currency because we have reached a degree of real economic integration," he said.

Some countries had achieved a degree of economic convergence and were much more advanced down the road towards achieving a monetary union.

"On the basis of this some (central bank) governors believe that a smaller group of countries are better positioned today to come to that conclusion," Mr. Lamfalussy said.

Mr. Lamfalussy said the EMI would hold meetings in the Swiss city of Basle until preparations for the move to Frankfurt were concluded. It was possible this would take place in September.

U.S. begins press dialogue

of three-day visit to Japan

TOKYO (AP) — A top U.S. trade official visited Japan on Wednesday with the "unprecedented" progress made over four months of mutual economic talks, while acknowledging Japanese negotiations were "very tough."

John Spoto, under-secretary for economic and agricultural affairs, said that with only a month to go before Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama visits Washington, the two sides were still in the first phase of negotiations.

"It should not be a surprise of the deaf," she told a news conference, referring to the past four months of negotiations under a July agreement aimed at forging a new partnership between the world's two biggest economies.

"The problem we have now is that we're still in phase one. We need some more pushing

and we'll do that when the Japanese come to us."

From the perspective of where we need to go, we are far from done," Mr. Spoto was especially critical of recent Japanese demands at the negotiations.

"Over the past month, the focus of public debate in Japan shifted almost exclusively to repetitive and irrelevant demands that are not in the best interest of our market," she said. "That's what I mean by 'very tough'."

Mr. Spoto said the Japanese delegation had "repeatedly" insisted on an understanding of the purpose of the negotiations and why it will benefit the Japanese economy.

"The problem we have now is that we're still in phase one. We need some more pushing

and we'll do that when the Japanese come to us."

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World News

Sarajevo airlift resumes

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The United Nations resumed its humanitarian airlift to the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo Wednesday after a two-day break ordered when a rocket crashed in to the airport runway.

In central Bosnia, the U.N. launched a fresh attempt to get food aid into the enclave of Maglaj, where thousands of Muslims are encircled by Serbs and Croats and have received no road convoys for 10 weeks.

Aleksa Ljubisic, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said in Zagreb that 20 aid flights were scheduled to land in Sarajevo during the day after donor nations agreed to restart the operation.

Relief flights were suspended for six days earlier this month because of severe Muslim-Serb artillery battles near the airport of Sarajevo, which is encircled by rebel Serb forces.

They resumed Tuesday only to be halted within hours when the rocket struck. A U.S. plane was on the ground and a Canadian flight had just taken off. No injuries were reported.

There was no word on which side carried out the attack, as a U.N. investigation failed to turn up enough evidence.

Most aid for the city's more than 360,000 inhabitants arrives via the airport because fighting and obstructive tactics by rival military forces have

strangled overland convoy routes.

Meanwhile, Sarajevo Radio highlighted the city's precarious food situation, saying the main bakery had run out of flour and would not be able to produce any bread unless it received deliveries Wednesday.

The city itself was relatively quiet Wednesday morning, with little shelling. NATO jets, which patrol the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia, flew low over the capital.

NATO has renewed its threat of air strikes against the Serbs besieging Sarajevo and threatening other Muslim areas.

With NATO's credibility at stake over Bosnia, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé said the alliance meant business when it pledged to open Tuzla Airport and relieve a contingent of Canadian U.N. troops trapped in Srebrenica.

But British Defence Minister Malcolm Rifkind, mindful that Britain has troops in Bosnia, said he was not enthusiastic about airstrikes and insisted they should only be considered under very special circumstances.

In Prague, President Bill Clinton said he questioned whether any outside intervention could bring peace to Bosnia but said allied forces should keep open supply lines to help people in former Yugoslavia. The United Nations military spokesman in Sarajevo, Colonel Bill Aikman, said the city's Muslim-led defenders fired 200 shells, an unusually large number, at the Serbs Tuesday. For their pains, they were pounded by 600 shells in return.

Civilians in Maglaj have received aid deliveries by land only twice in recent months. The last convoy entered on Oct. 25, according to Hollingsworth, in charge of the UNHCR operation in north-central Bosnia.

Airdrops have provided almost the only outside food aid to the enclave since Serbs and Croats encircled and cut off the Muslim-led Bosnian army there last summer.

"Shelling of civilian areas does occur as a result of that," Col. Aikman told a news briefing. "Inevitably gun positions are near civilian locations."

The International Red Cross in Sarajevo said its headquarters came under fire Tuesday. One person was killed and two local Red Cross employees were wounded.

Col. Aikman reported fighting between Muslim and Croat forces in central Bosnia Tuesday. The eastern Muslim enclaves of Stepanac and Zepa were quiet, but Gorazde, where more than 60,000 Muslims are trapped by Bosnian Serbs, was shelled.

A U.N. relief convoy reached the edge of the besieged Bosnian Muslim enclave of Maglaj Wednesday in a new bid to aid thousands of civilians cut off since October. A U.N. spokesman said the nine-truck convoy had made it to the last Serb checkpoint at Ozimica, four kilometres outside Maglaj, where a senior

U.N. refugee official, Larry Hollingsworth, was negotiating final passage.

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by the worst fires in Australia's history (AFP photo)

Fires spark health warnings in Sydney

SYDNEY (R) — Health officials warned Sydney residents with chronic heart or lung diseases to stay indoors Wednesday as bushfires left a blanket of smoke over the city and sent pollution levels soaring.

The New South Wales (NSW) Health Department officials also advised asthma sufferers and those with other respiratory illnesses to wear face masks when outdoors and warned everyone against strenuous outdoor exercise.

"People with chronic heart or lung disease should stay indoors," said Dr. Gavin Frost, the department's deputy chief health officer.

"Studies have shown that people with these conditions have a slightly increased risk of death if they are badly affected by smoke."

Firefighters were prepared for fresh flare-ups because of hot weather and high winds forecast for the next few days.

The bushfires that ravaged Sydney's environs have so far killed four people, destroyed nearly 200 houses and burned 300,000 hectares (1.5 million acres) of bushland. Many were deliberately and eleven people have been arrested.

While they are now burning away from populated areas,

low transparency in the air," he said. "It's too thick for the early and late sunlight to get through."

The shorter summer days have meant cooler mornings and nights because the bureau spokesman said, "there is simply less time for the sun to heat us up in the day."

Firefighters said Wednesday they had another successful day combating the 150 fires across the state because forecast higher temperatures and high winds did not materialise.

Intensive controlled burning and water-bombing contained many of the state's bushfires, especially those in Sydney.

But late Wednesday there were two major new outbreaks in mountain bushland around Sydney's commuter towns of the Blue Mountains in the west and Gosford in the north.

"Unfortunately there has been a deterioration in the (forecast) weather conditions for the next few days, particularly for the coming weekend," said NSW Police and Emergency Services Minister Terry Griffiths.

"Under the predicted weather conditions both fires could well present real problems during the next 36 hours."

Plumbers told to be politically correct

LONDON (R) — British plumbers have been told to be politically correct and stop talking about "ballocks" and "stopcocks" in the errant pipes of their customers. A new guide to anti-sexist terminology issued to water authorities said ballocks should now be called "float-operated valves." But the new policy document from the Water Research Association was greeted with scorn by plumbers. "This is political correctness gone mad. You have to wonder where it will all end," said Allan Robinson of the National Plumbers Association. He told the Times: "This is the most powerful document in plumbing and all our members have to obey it. It dictates what every plumber must do by law and failure to comply can lead to them being heavily fined."

Mr. Robinson said the association's 20,000 members were "treating this as a bit of a joke. One has said he will charge £15 (\$22) to fit a stopcock, but £30 (\$45) to fit a stop-valve."

Women who don't wear well

HOLLYWOOD (R) — Actress Glenn Close, who stars in the stage musical *Sunset Boulevard*, topped the annual list of worst-dressed women issued Tuesday by Mr. Blackwell, Hollywood's self-appointed fashion arbiter. His 1994 list included: 2. Actresses Julia Roberts, 3. singer Diana Ross, 4. actress Rosie Perez, 5. actress Susan Sarandon, 6. Latoya Jackson, sister of pop star Michael Jackson, 7. actress Holly Hunter, 8. actress Rose O'Donnell, 9. country singer Tanya Tucker, 10. actress Daryl Hannah. Last year's "winner," pop superstar Madonna, was not named this year by Blackwell.

Selfish sex' provoked organ slasher — wife

MANASSAS, Virginia (R) — Lorena Bobbitt said a policeman she lopped off her husband's penis in anger because he had forced sex on her, and said she was a selfish lover who never led her to orgasm, the policeman testified. Detective Peter Weintz, reading from a transcript of his taped interview with Mrs. Bobbitt, said she told him she got the idea for revenge as she drank a glass of water in the kitchen after a harsh sex episode and saw a kitchen knife. "And then I took it and I was just angry... and I went to the bedroom... He's selfish. I don't think it's fair, so I pulled back the sheets and then I did it," she told Mr. Weintz.

Cops lose arsenal to kids

TAMPA, Florida (R) — An FBI SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) team member got a taste of Florida's crime problem when someone stole his car — and the pistol, shotgun, machinegun and bullet-proof armour locked inside the trunk. Tampa Police said they recovered the car that was stolen from outside a south Tampa motel and some of the weapons. They said a narcotics squad spotted a group of teenagers carrying two of the missing weapons. The machine gun was not recovered.

What's In a name?

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — A catchy name is spelling trouble for the owner of Saks Fifth Avenue, who has been ordered to stop using it at her second-hand clothes store because of complaints from ritzy retailer Saks Fifth Avenue, in a ruling in a law suit filed by Saks, a federal judge told Bechtel Hill she must change the name of her small consignment shop because of its similarity to the New York-based department store chain. While Saks stopped \$1 billion annually, Hill said that in a good year she would net about \$15,000. She inherited the store's name when she bought it in 1986.

Police nail napping gourmand

SAO PAULO (R) — A Brazilian man who broke into a Sao Paulo social club and fell asleep after eating a chicken, a carton of ice cream and 30 glasses of beer, woke to find himself under arrest. Renato Pereira Dos Santos, 26, had planned to steal music and video equipment. But he found a frozen chicken, defrosted, cooked and ate it, along with a carton of ice cream. He washed the whole meal down with around 30 glasses of beer and stretched out on a towel on the floor for a nap. "I was so drunk I forgot that the police existed," he said.

South Africa township residents demand action

KATLEHONG, South Africa (R) — Battle-weary people in South Africa's most violent township Wednesday demanded action not words from the multi-party executive body which has pledged to bring peace to shattered communities.

The Transitional Executive Council (TEC), set up to monitor President F.W. De Klerk's government in the run-up to the April 27 election, said Tuesday night it was acting to stem political violence in townships east of Johannesburg.

But people in Katlehong and neighbouring Tokoza, where more than 1,500 people were killed in political violence last year, said the TEC needed to move immediately.

Japan Socialists decide to back Hosokawa

TOKYO (R) — Leaders of Japan's Socialist Party, the largest in the ruling coalition, announced Wednesday to continue internal opposition to a package of political reforms.

At the end of a stormy two-day national party convention, Chairman Tomio Murayama persuaded delegates to support Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's reforms despite fears they could spell electoral disaster for the party.

"We will not lose our integrity and we will fight for the enactment of the political reform bills," Mr. Murayama said. "We will strengthen the

U.S. report: China failed to improve human rights

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The draft of a report by the State Department on human rights has concluded China has not made significant progress in curbing widespread abuses last year, according to a report in the Wednesday editions of the New York Times.

President Bill Clinton has said repeatedly China must improve its record on human rights if it wishes to win extension of preferential trade status next summer.

The paper said senior administration officials said Tuesday the report's findings underscored repeated warnings by the president and Secretary of State Warren Christopher about its human rights abuses.

China will lose the right to export their goods to the United States under the same low tariffs enjoyed by most other countries unless it urgently improves its record.

By one analysis, the paper said, the loss of most-favoured nation status would raise the average customs duty on goods imported from China to 40 per cent from eight per cent.

Although China must be credited with improvement in some areas since 1993, the report showed, there were also serious setbacks in its performance, including arbitrary arrests and torture and ill treatment of political and religious dissidents.

It also states, the paper said, that the Beijing government

IRA claims Belfast attack

BELFAST (R) — The IRA said Wednesday it carried out an attack on a security force vehicle which seriously injured three police officers. A policewoman and two male colleagues were taken to hospital after the attack in a staunchly Catholic area of Belfast late Tuesday. The policewoman suffered eye injuries, one of the men had serious chest wounds and the other had several facial wounds. The IRA (Irish Republican Army) claimed responsibility for the attack in a call to a radio station in the Northern Ireland capital. Police said initially a bomb had been thrown at the vehicle but reported later the guerrillas appeared to have fired a rocket. Meanwhile, the Irish government announced the end of a 20-year broadcasting ban on the IRA and its political wing Sinn Fein in an apparent move to persuade them to endorse an Anglo-Irish peace plan for Northern Ireland. It said it would not renew the ban, known as Section 31, when it comes up for renewal of January 19, raising the prospect that Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams could appear on Irish Television for the first time in two decades shortly afterwards.

Gas pipeline to Armenia blown up

YEREVAN (R) — unidentified groups blew up a section of a vital gas pipeline running from Georgia to neighbouring Armenia Tuesday in the third such explosion in a month, an Armenian government spokesman said. It was not immediately clear who was behind the blast at the Azeri-populated village of Gardabani in southeast Georgia, spokesman Vladimir Manoyan said by telephone. Gas supplies to Armenia were cut off several times last year after blasts at Georgian pipelines last year. The latest explosions were on Dec. 18 and on Dec. 24, Mr. Manoyan said. Armenia depends on Georgia for gas since neighbouring Azerbaijan, with which it is warring over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, cut off its supplies two years ago. Mr. Manoyan said the former Soviet republic was receiving 2.5 million cubic metres (88 million cubic feet) of gas a day through Georgian pipelines before the disruptions.

Mr. Manoyan managed to persuade party hardliners to retract four resolutions that could have forced the party to leave the coalition and bring down the government.

POIPET, Cambodia (AFP) — The Khmer Rouge blew up a new bridge along Cambodia's National Route 5 as guerrillas burned tracts of ricefield, government and military officials said Wednesday. The guerrillas attacked government troops guarding the bridge along Route 5 at Phum Ongkot, south of Sisophon, in Banteay Meanchey province, a military official in the capital Phnom Penh said. A government officer told reporters on the Thai-Cambodian border that one government soldier was killed and three injured in the 30-minute firefight — one guerrilla was also killed. The guerrillas proceeded to use landmines to destroy a 5-metre (16.5 foot) stretch of the bridge, the military official said. The bridge was renovated by Thai military engineers and is just some 60 kilometres south of another bridge at the Thai-Cambodian border, which Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai will officially open Thursday, the government offices said. The Thai premier, on a three-day visit to Cambodia aimed at boosting the often troubled relations between the two neighbouring kingdoms, will preside over an inauguration ceremony for the "friendship bridge" and also for a stretch of the highway recently constructed by Thai army engineers.

Balladur to visit China

BEIJING (R) — France has agreed not to allow arms sales to Taiwan, paving the way for a renewal of good relations with China, the official Xinhua News Agency said Wednesday. "The Chinese side reaffirms that arms sales of any type to Taiwan will bring harm to China's sovereignty, security and reunification and that the Chinese government will be firmly opposed to that," Xinhua quoted a joint communiqué as saying. "In view of the concerns of the Chinese side, the French government has undertaken not to authorise any French enterprises to participate in the arming of Taiwan." Xinhua said as a result of the communiqué, French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur would visit Beijing soon. "China and France have decided to restore their traditional relations of friendly cooperation," it said.

German presidency moves to Berlin

BERLIN (AFP) — German President Richard Von Weizsaecker transferred his official residence from Bonn to Berlin in a bid to speed the government's controversial move back to the country's former capital. Mr. Weizsaecker christened his new residence, Bellevue Castle, Tuesday afternoon with a New Year's reception for 200 of Germany's most deserving citizens — a traditional event previously held in Bonn. One of the strongest supporters of a rapid switch of Germany's power base from Bonn to Berlin, Mr. Von Weizsaecker said last year he would move east at the beginning of 1994 to set a precedent. Deputies voted in June 1991 to transfer the Bundestag — or lower parliamentary house — to Berlin. Chancellor Helmut Kohl announced the move would take place before 2000, and a timetable may be set during a cabinet meeting Thursday.

Seoul opposition ready to meet Kim II-Sung

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean opposition leader Lee Ki-Tae said Wednesday he would be prepared to meet North Korean President Kim II-Sung if that would help move the two Koreas towards unification.

"For those who know and trust and admire John Major, they know the policies are right," she told Britain's GMTV. But she added: "We have got to explain it better, get back to our own hard work, a bed with another man while denying any homosexual activity."

Sympathy for Junior Transport Minister Lord Caithness, who resigned after his wife shot herself, has evaporated after his parents-in-law said he was seeing another woman.

Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley sought to play down

the deepening crisis, which hit Prime Minister John Major as he was recovering from policy U-turns and party mutinies and had won praise for his handling of the economy and Northern Ireland.

One minister resigned after fathering an illegitimate child, an aide quit after reports of profiteering on a state housing scheme and another male Conservative parliamentarian was ridiculed for admitting sharing a bed with another man while denying any homosexual activity.

But right-wingers in the ruling party sniped at Mr. Major for muddled leadership, and his woes were compounded by a poll showing Conservatives trailing the opposition Labour Party by 24 points, their lowest rating since 1958.

But he was offered one crumb of comfort — the job

before their New Year's Day uprising. Police say they have used some of it in a weekend bombing spree in Mexico City.

Five bombs rocked the Mexican capital over the weekend. Explosive experts linked one bomb to the stolen explosives.

The Zapatistas, estimated to number as many as 2,000, many of them descendants of Mayan Indians, seized control of at least six Chiapas towns in the early hours of Jan. 1, the day the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect.

They say they are fighting to regain

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt arrests 300 suspects in two weeks

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian security forces have rounded up 300 suspects in a two-week crackdown in several provinces and seized large caches of arms, security sources said Wednesday. The said 35 wanted militants or escapees were among those detained in the campaign which began in Cairo, Giza Qalyoubiya, Hilwan and other areas. Explosives and weapons were found with many of them, the sources added. Egypt, determined to quash a rising tide of militant violence that targeted public figures and foreign tourists, has mounted constant raids and arrest campaigns since last year. More than 271 people have been killed and 668 injured in political violence which began in 1992. Egypt has hanged 29 militants for attacks on tourists and officials.

Israeli teens suspected in killing

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a crime that sent shock waves through Israel, police said Wednesday they arrested three Israeli ninth graders in the killing of a taxi driver whose death was at first blamed on Palestinians. Police found business cards in the name of "Crime Inc." in the home of one suspect along with plans to rob a bank and kill all witnesses. The cards had the names of the teenagers and their home telephone numbers. Police said investigators were led to the trio after one bragged about the killing at school the next day and showed friends the pistol allegedly used to shoot the taxi driver. Police Commissioner Rafi Peled said the teenage violence was unprecedented and was worse than politically motivated attacks that have become a familiar part of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Police said three teenagers were arrested at the home of one youth in Herzliya, an affluent suburb north of Tel Aviv. Two of the youths, aged 15 and 16, were suspected of killing taxi driver Derek Roth, 53, a father of three, on Sunday night. The third teenager was detained for helping after the murder. According to an account in the daily *Yedioth Achronot*, one of the youths pulled out a pistol and shot the driver in the back a number of times. A ring and gold chain were taken but his wallet was left untouched with more than 450 shekels (\$150). Roth's body was found slumped over the steering wheel and banner headlines Monday blamed it on Palestinians. One of the youths was the son of a prominent lawyer, according to Israeli radio reports, but all three had records for theft. The youths told police their motive was robbery and that the shooting was coincidental. Israel Radio said.

Kuwait to give Boeings as gift to Syria

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Wednesday it was going ahead with a gift of three U.S.-made airliners to Syria now that Washington has lifted a ban on the transfer. Kuwait promised to give Gulf war ally Damascus the three Boeing 727's which became redundant in a modernisation of state airline Kuwait Airways' corporation's fleet. But it could not make the transfer due to restrictions on the supply of sophisticated U.S. machinery to Syria because it remains on a Washington list of countries allegedly linked to "terrorism." Washington made an exception of the Kuwaiti airliners last month when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited Damascus to prepare for this week's summit between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syria's Hafez Al Assad. "The U.S. Commerce Department has permitted KAC to give three Boeing 727 aircrafts to the Syrian Arab Airlines corporation," KAC General Manager Ahmad Al Zebin told Reuters. He said the aircraft which had already been removed from the KAC fleet were operational.

Rabbi flees to Morocco, converts to Islam

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A rabbi at the centre of a sex scandal has run off to Morocco and converted to Islam, *Yediot Acharonot* newspaper reported Wednesday. It said Rabbi Shimom Dabon, who enticed schoolgirls by giving away exam results, was working in a mosque in his native Morocco. The rabbinical court in the southern Israeli town of Beersheba is to decide whether to grant a divorce to his wife Myriam. Normally under Jewish law, the husband must agree.

Major to appear at 'Iraqgate' inquiry

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major is to appear next Monday before an inquiry investigating British arms sales to Iraq, officials said Wednesday. The inquiry is investigating whether the British government knowingly broke its own regulations on arms sales to Iraq. It was set up in November 1992 after the collapse of the trial of British directors of the Iraqi-owned Matrix Churchill engineering firm. Former minister Alan Clark had said in court that government departments encouraged sales of defence equipment to Iraq before the Gulf war. Mr. Major follows his predecessor Margaret Thatcher and a string of senior ministers who have been grilled by Lord Justice Scott over what has been dubbed "Iraqgate."

Expelled ambassador of Britain leaves Khartoum

KHARTOUM (Agencies) Britain's ambassador to Sudan, Peter Streams, left Khartoum early Wednesday, one day before the government's deadline for his expulsion. British diplomats said.

They said Mr. Streams left at 3 a.m. after holding a farewell reception at his residence attended by a number of Sudanese, including former civilian Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, who was ousted by the present government.

Sudan issued its expulsion order on Dec. 30, giving Mr. Streams 14 days to leave. His forced departure followed a row over a visit to rebel-held southern Sudan by Archbishop of Canterbury Peter Carey who declined to visit the capital.

Britain retaliated by giving the Sudanese ambassador to London, Ali Osman Yassin, two weeks to leave after Khartoum refused to reconsider its decision to expel streams.

Sudan accused Mr. Streams of constant attacks on the government of Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

He was for example accused of not attending official national Sudanese days such as June 30, the day in 1989 when Gen. Bashir seized power from Mr. Mahdi, and of visiting areas held by the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) without government consent.

Mr. Streams was also held responsible for Carey's failure to visit Khartoum.

Despite the expulsions Khartoum and London appear to be eager to leave the epic-

Brown visit 'signal of U.S. commitment'

Secretary to seek business 'matchmaking', end to 'boycott of Israel'

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown on Wednesday described his visit to the Middle East next week as the best indication yet of Washington's commitment to regional economic development as part of the Arab-Israel peace process.

The American official agreed that the continuing de facto blockade of the port of Aqaba as part of the enforcement of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq was contrary to the new-found spirit of free international trade without any barriers.

Mr. Brown, who is due in Amman on Monday after visiting Saudi Arabia, noted that he would be accompanied by representatives of American businessmen and said one of the objectives of his trip was to identify areas where the U.S. private sector could be encouraged to interact with its counterparts in the countries of the region.

Parallel to that goal, Mr. Brown said, he would also be "very aggressively" pursuing the U.S. quest to have the Arab boycott of Israel lifted.

"I have raised (this issue) with every meeting I had" with the concerned governments, he said, noting that he was scheduled to meet with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministers in Riyadh on Sunday.

"The U.S. is going to continue to push to eliminate all boycotts and I am going to press it with all the leaders with whom I meet, as I have done

before, and as President Clinton has done," he said.

Answering questions from businessmen and journalists from Amman, Cairo, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in a satellite interview from Washington, Mr. Brown declined to be specific on most issues, saying that all options were under consideration during his visit.

The American official agreed that the continuing de facto blockade of the port of Aqaba as part of the enforcement of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq was contrary to the new-found spirit of free international trade without any barriers.

But he did not indicate when Washington, through its influence in the U.N. Security Council, would be moving to address Jordanian grievances over the high cost the Kingdom's importers and exporters have to pay for shipping to and from Aqaba as a result of the costly delays posed by the inspection.

Mr. Brown acknowledged that one of his objectives during the visit was to increase U.S. exports to the region. "I also understand that a commercial relationship is a two-way street ... there has to be an equilibrium ... and that is what we are trying to create."

Mr. Brown said Washington was "committed to the economy

development" of the Middle East so that "people can feel peace has brought changes" to their standards of living.

His visit to the Middle East at "this crucial" point in time in the peace process, Mr. Brown said, is intended to be a signal of this commitment.

"I think that is why this mission is so important," he added. "With the coming of peace people's expectations are high in all the countries involved in the region. People believe that their lives are going to change ..."

According to Dr. Thabet Al Taher, a former minister and a current member of the Jordan Businessmen's Association (JBA) who was one of Wednesday's questioners, Jordanian imports from the U.S. totalled \$301 million in the first 10 months of 1993, while American imports of Jordanian products remained under \$4 million.

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